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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN





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Survey shows multinationals short on responsibility

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Air China trains Olympic attendants

Prospective flight attendants practiced smiling during a training session in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Tuesday. Air China, the official carrier of the Beijing Olympic Games, started to train its first batch of 34 candidates following a nationwide flight attendant selection.

Photo by Shao Xing



Yao Ming may be first Olympic torchbearer

By Jackie Zhang

The first leg of the Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in China will be in Sanya, Hainan Province, and the first torchbearer may be Yao Ming, the Chinese basketball player now signed with the Houston Rockets, an NBA team.

The responsible person from Sanya Administration of Culture and Sports told Xinhua that the torch relay route was decided.

Liao Minxheng, the bureau director, said the torch will arrive in Sanya on May 4. The relay will start at Tianyahajiao, a famous site, and end on Fenghuang-

dao, Phoenix Island, China's first international cruise liner port.

Yao Ming may be selected as the first torchbearer and Yi Jianlian, another Chinese basketball player signed with the Milwaukee Bucks is an alternate candidate.

The news was released yesterday by the Sanya Municipal Government.

Organizers of the Beijing Olympics said Wednesday that the summer's torch relay will continue as planned despite security concerns following the recent riots in Tibet.

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hopeful won't
run if picked

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liquids allowed
no more

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Torch to ascend Mount Qomolangma as planned

Organizers of the Beijing Olympics said Wednesday that the torch relay of this summer's games will continue as planned despite concerns over security in Tibet following recent riots in the region.

"The Tibet leg of the torch relay will proceed as scheduled," Jiang Xiaoyu, the executive vice president for the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), said at a press conference.

"We firmly believe that the government of the Tibet Autonomous Region will be able to ensure the stability of Tibet and a smooth

torch relay," he said.

A handful of rioters, chanting separatist slogans in downtown Lhasa, set fire to civilian houses and shops, destroyed vehicles, killed 13 innocent people and seriously injured a dozen of law-enforcers, a veteran Tibetan official Ragdi said.

The torch will be lit in Greece on Monday and will arrive in China on March 31 when a grand ceremony will be held at Tiananmen Square. The 137,000-kilometer relay will cover 134 cities on five continents starting on April 1 and ending on August 8 at the Olympic stadium in Beijing.

Jiang said the torch bearers' team for the Qomolangma leg will carry the torch to ascend the peak on any possible day with favorable weather conditions in May. On the day when the torch ascends the peak, the torch relay activities in relevant provinces will be suspended and resumed after the ascent, in order to avoid two torch events going on simultaneously.

"After the ascent, the flame will be kept in Lhasa and then join the flame which arrives in Lhasa during the relay in the mainland of China," he said.

Jiang also reiterated China's

stance that it is unacceptable to link politics to the Olympic Games, and said organizers believe that there will not be a boycott of the sporting event.

"The Olympics should not be politicized ... Boycotting the Games goes against the spirit of the Olympic movement," he said.

"It is only an attempt by a few people and organizations. We do believe that the majority of the people around the world will make the right decision and participate in the Olympic Games and in the opening ceremony," he said.

(Xinhua)

Life in Lhasa back to normal



A tourist asks a Lhasa resident for directions.

By Zhang Dongya

A veteran Tibetan official said the situation in Lhasa, Tibet's capital, has been under control since last Friday, Xinhua reported.

Sources within the government said, as of Wednesday, nearly 170

people have turned themselves in to police for their roles in the riot.

As many as 325 people were injured in the violence in Lhasa on Friday, which wracked the city

with 200 million yuan (US \$28 million) in damages, according

to latest counts by the Tibetan regional government.

Thirteen civilians were burnt or stabbed to death during the chaos.

Since the turmoil, the region's foreign affairs office has sus-

pended travel permits to foreigners. Tour groups are still allowed to travel to Tibet, but the region's tourism bureau suggested they postpone travel plans until the damage can be repaired.

Xinhua Photo

Beijing Univ to unveil 2007's top Chinese

By Huang Daohen

Ten Chinese elites from around the world will be announced as the most influential at the 2007 You Bring Charm to the World Award Ceremony, which will be held in Beijing University at the end of the month.

Individuals in the fields of scientific research, public affairs, sports, culture and arts can be nominated for the award by media veterans. The results will be determined by an online poll and by media experts' opinions.

The award, an annual event that began last year, is sponsored by 12 main Chinese media the *Beijing Youth Daily*, China News Service and Phoenix TV.

Last year's winners included the 110-meter hurdler Liu Xiang and Oscar-winning director Ang Lee.

Ethiopian athlete 'quits' before told he can run

By Han Manman

Marathon world record holder Haile Gebrselassie's announcement he would not participate in the Beijing Olympic marathon is purely personal, and was made without notifying the Ethiopian Olympic committee, the Ethiopian ambassador to China said Wednesday.

Haile Gebrselassie, 34, told several news agencies last week that he would not compete in the Olympic marathon because he fears Beijing's air pollution would damage his health.

"We don't know what made him make the announcement, and we don't understand why he chose this time to say it," Ambassador Haile-Kiros Gessesse said.

The ambassador said athletes representing Ethiopia in the Games will be solely determined by the Ethiopian National Olymp-

ic Committee (ENOC). The list of athletes attending the Beijing Olympics will not be released until June.

"He did not act according to the rules and norms set by our country's Olympic committee. He could have waited until the list is released, and if he is on the list, he can then decide if he wants to compete," Gessesse said.

"If Gebrselassie is on the final list of athletes for the Beijing Olympic marathon, and he still opts out, the Ethiopian Olympic Committee will respect his choice, but it will hurt the feelings of our people," the ambassador said.

Gebrselassie told media that he was worried that air pollution in Beijing would trigger his asthma.

The ambassador said it was the first time he heard of Gebrselassie having asthma.

The International Olympic

Committee (IOC) told Reuters last week that they would not comment on Gebrselassie's decision, but its spokesperson Emmanuelle Moreau said the committee was satisfied with the pollution levels during test events.

"We have received new data on pollution and air quality and we are currently analyzing it," Moreau said, adding, "From the test events that have taken place so far, the levels have been satisfactory."

Chinese authorities began the first census of Beijing polluters on March 7. The survey will include 90,000 sources, of which 24,000 are industrial, 45,000 residential, 21,000 agricultural and 128 are treatment facilities, according to Beijing's bureau of environmental protection.

Companies failing to provide accurate information face a fine of up to 50,000 yuan.

More Olympic tickets released next month

By Li Fenghua

According to the ticket selling plan of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), the third round of Olympic ticket sales will begin next month.

A ticketing center spokesman said 7 million tickets will be put on the market in this round, of which 40-50 percent will be sold in the domestic market.

Admission tickets for the third phase include any tickets left over from the past two rounds. Statistics show 1.3 million of the 2.2 million tickets on the market sold in the first phase and 0.45 million of the 1.845 million tickets were sold in the second phase.

Estimates suggest an availability of 230 million tickets in the third round, a worker in the ticketing center said.

"The specifics of ticket sales have not been decided, but it will not be sold by a drawing of lots," the worker said. "The tickets in this round will be sold according to sequence. Specific regulations on ticket selling will be announced later by the ticket center."

Persons who won tickets in the first two drawings will have to wait until July to collect their tickets. Buyers in the third round can get their tickets immediately upon purchase.

Brief news

Mild flu season

The Chinese mainland has experienced a milder flu season this year than in recent years, a Ministry of Health spokesman said Wednesday. As of March 9, flu patients accounted for about 3.5 percent of hospital outpatients in south China and 5.2 percent in the north. Both were lower than figures in the same period in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

More foreign TV channels in hotels

Three-star and above hotels in China can receive 33 foreign satellite television channels, including CNN and Discovery, starting this year. The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television published a list of accepted foreign television channels on its Web site. The list is valid until December 31.

Second airport for capital

Beijing's second international airport will be completed before 2010. The location of the airport has not been decided. The country is expected to have 190 airports by 2010, according to the Layout Planning of National Civil Airport issued by the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Deaf-mute, retarded slaves could not cry for help

By Annie Wei

No one knew what happened to the 33 slaves in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, until one fell out of a window and died last Thursday.

The men, mostly retarded or deaf-mutes, had been scammed at railway stations or long-distance bus stations and taken to a tiny room at the top of an abandoned building in Hulan district, Harbin.

Last Thursday at noon, a student surnamed Ma from the Hei-

longjiang Police College and his classmates were walking in the area when one of the laborers tumbled from a window. Ma called the police when he noticed a crowd staring at the dead man.

During the investigation, local police found the other slave laborers locked in the room. Local police said none of them could identify who the dead man was or where he was from, because the man was retarded. When he fell, the others

were asleep. They said no one noticed or saw what happened.

Police caught the ring leaders who were trafficking in the slaves. They said the traders beat the men and forced them to work. Slaves who tried to escape were beaten severely when caught.

The apartment was a small, dirty room beside the construction site where they worked.

According to the other slaves, the dead man was one who had

tried to escape many times, and who was frequently beaten.

One of the gang members, surnamed Men, 41, was a migrant worker from Inner Mongolia. He was cheated last September and drawn into the traders' ring. He said he tried to escape, but the other gang members forced him to serve as watchdog over the slaves.

The Harbin government has found legal jobs for seven of the workers, and sent the others home.

Second child birth requests go public

By Zhang Dongya

Residents who apply to birth a second child in the Lucheng district of Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, will have their applications published on the district's Web site starting from the end of the month.

Basic information on all applicants will be published on the 21st of every month. Residents can report fake information to the Lucheng Population and Family Planning Bureau via letter, telephone or personal visit within three days of publication.

Previously, such information was limited to community bulletin boards, but the new policy will see such notices posted in the community for seven days and on the Internet for three days.

The Web site will serve as a permanent archival tool to track birth records and forward them to residents' workplaces if needed.

There have been incidents of applicants supplying false credentials in order to cheat the country's Family Planning Policy and birth more than one child, Dai Honghong, the deputy director of Lucheng Population and Family Planning Bureau, said.

The increase in the country's mobile population is one reason the district is stepping up its birth supervision, Dai said.

According to the policy, applicants who are mistakenly-approved will have their permission terminated and Certificate of Birth invalidated. Parents who have already given birth will face increased fines.

Celebrities and rich people will be most influenced since the discovery may damage their reputation or the image of their enterprise, Pan Yuhong, a bureau official, said.

Wenzhou has one of the highest birth rates in Zhejiang Province, with half its population birthing more children than the Family Planning Policy allows.

According to Zhejiang Province regulations on Population and Family Planning, a couple may only have a second child under several conditions, including if both parents are an only child or if both parents are an ethnic minority.

Strong sandstorms dump dust

By Li Fenghua

The city was struck by a strong sandstorm Tuesday, when all of Beijing proper was engulfed in a cloud of yellow dust. It was the second and the worst sandstorm to hit the capital this spring.

As many as 11 construction sites were required to suspend operations by the Beijing Chengguan department due to fears their work would contribute to the already dense dust.

The dust peaked at 2 pm, when visibility was at its lowest in most areas, according to the video records of the Beijing Meteorological Bureau. Beijing residents wore gauze masks when outside.

From the surveillance of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, floating dust appeared at about 8 am in the morning from Northwest of Beijing due to a low pressure system in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Around 9 am, the density per hour of the particulate matter was increasing. The air quality of the city was ranked 5, meaning the skies were seriously polluted by floating dust.

According to news from the Information Service Office of State



Beijing residents turn to gauze masks to keep out Tuesday's dust.

Photo by Artist Yuan

Forestry Administration, from the evening of Monday to next morning, floating dust hit Xilingou, Chifeng and Tongliao in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and then Chengde and Zhangjiakou of Hebei Province.

It arrived in Beijing and

Tianjin Tuesday morning. Satellite surveillance showed the dust originated from a sandstorm in Mongolia.

Sandstorms occur most frequently from March to May every year, experts from the weather forecast department

said. It is possible that another sandstorm will hit Beijing before the season ends.

Satellite photos and video showed that the dusty covered eight provinces and affected 85 million people in north and northeast China.

Train passenger dies from tonsillitis

By Li Fenghua

A Henan man, Hu Xianghong, died while on board a train from Zhengzhou to Shenzhen last Saturday when he developed acute tonsillitis, an illness that killed him in two hours.

At about 11 am March 15, when train 1539 arrived in Jiangxi Province, Hu began to feel pain in his throat. An hour later, when the train arrived at J'ian, Jiangxi Province, he was already pale and

unable to breathe.

Train attendants located two medical interns in the number 7 car. Hu staggered there for help, and the interns suggested a few medicines that were not included in the train's first aid kit.

Hu died at 2 pm. His last words, according to passengers at the scene, were that he did not want to die.

The Zhengzhou Railway Station had sent a working group to

Xingguo Railway Station to negotiate with Hu's family. The results of his autopsy and details of settlement with the family will be announced soon.

The number 1539 remains in operation, though its conductor has been fired by the company, an officer from Zhengzhou Railway Station said.

The only medical equipment on the train was a stethoscope and some common ointments

contained in the first aid kit.

Trains are required to carry medical equipment and train attendants and workers in first aid, according to regulations passed in 2007. 12 Zhengzhou Railway conductors were sent for training in CPR and other first aid techniques.

"The trains are really not ready to provide such services," an officer from Zhengzhou Railway Station said.

Poly Theater to stage 10-hour Kunqu masterpiece

By Annie Wei

The Kunqu masterpiece *Changshengdian* has not been staged in its entirety for 300 years.

The play, written by Hong Sheng in Qing Dynasty, tells the love story of Tang Emperor Xuanzong and his favorite consort Yang Yuhuang. But what made *Changshengdian* so popular was not just the topic, but its outstanding dra-

matic artistry.

To present theater-goers an opportunity to appreciate the full story, the Poly Theater and Poly Culture will stage the play at the end of next month.

The play, with a running time of 10 hours, will be separated into four independent but connective stories. Audience members can select which to watch.



Photo provided by Poly Theater

Multinationals

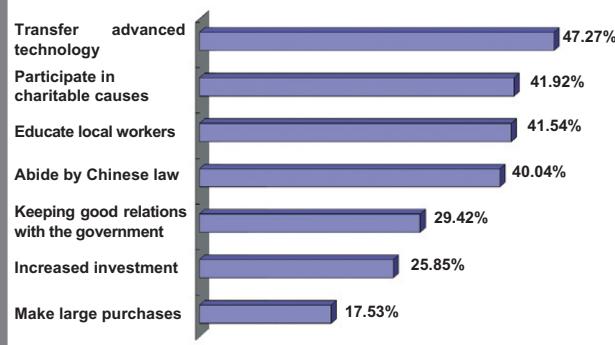
cautioned to clean up their act



KFC is still recovering from the Sudan Red dye incident in 2005.

CFP Photo

What workers like about multinationals



By Huang Daohen

High salaries, humane working conditions and reasonable paid vacation opportunities have been the reasons to work for multinational companies in China.

However, a recent survey on the image of such companies in China shows that 80 percent of interviewees believe foreign companies discriminate against Chinese employees and that the companies still need to exercise more social responsibility.

To date, as many as 570,000 foreign-invested companies have registered in China since 1982, bringing investments valued at US\$ 665 billion, according to the report.

The survey, released by the Guangdong Provincial Situation Study and Investigation Center last Friday, polled 3,000 consumers, workers and employees of multinational companies in China's main cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

About 70 companies were involved, including many well-known brands such as hamburger king McDonald's, soft drink giant Coca-Cola and the IT innovator Microsoft.

Pros and cons

Respondents said the public image of good multinational companies relies on the transfer of advanced technology to Chinese companies and participation in domestic charities. Educating Chinese talents and abiding by Chinese laws and regulations are what the interviewees think most highly of when commenting on the multinational companies.

According to the report, Coca-Cola leads the top 30, followed by Nokia and Pepsi.

On the flipside, the report found that there were four multinational actions that displeased Chinese customers. More than 56 percent of those polled were strongly against foreign companies establishing polluting industries in China.

A recent report by the Institute of Public and Environment Affairs showed that about 90 foreign-invested companies, including KFC and Carlsburg, were found to violate Chinese rules on waste discharge since 2004.

Other points that bugged people included higher prices for goods sold in China, hiding defects of goods within Chinese specifications and refusing to compensate consumers for bad products.

Though only 22 percent of those polled said that the companies had fulfilled their social responsibilities in accordance with profits they had made in China, close to 90 percent of those polled agreed that the companies had made significant contributions to the country's economic development.

Referring to multinational companies' claims that they were not making any profit in China, half of the respondents doubted that statement.

Low treatment of locals

During this survey, up to 40 percent of the people polled believed that foreign companies were doing better than domestic ones in dealing with employees' general treatment packages and consumer complaints. Nevertheless, almost 80 percent of the respondents said there was discrimination against Chinese employees within multinational companies.

KFC and Pizza Hut's salary incident last year drew wild concern over multinational companies' discrimination against part-time staff. The companies were reported to be underpaying the workers by up to 40 percent below the local statutory minimum wage in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

The salary incident was a result of the development of China's social supervision system and the growth of people's consciousness of social injustice, Wang Yi, professor with China Academy of Social Sciences said. Many foreign firms are being forced to rebuild their corporate image, he said.

But "not all the so-called discriminatory actions are caused by the multinational companies," Selena Jia, a consultant director from a law firm Clifford Chance, said. "Different cultural background, tradition and language also hinders the communication with employees from different countries," Jia said.

He pointed out that more patience for mutual understanding and learning from each other's cultures would help eliminate discrimination, at least in the cultural arena.

High salaries come in second

Many foreign businessmen have long pointed at piracy issues, government corruption and lack of transparency as the main obstacles to doing business in China. "What we found was surprising," Wang Hanbing, a researcher who led the survey, said, "the biggest problem that foreign companies face is a shift in expectations among China's workers toward compensation packages and leisure time."

Wang noted that young workers born after China's economic reforms and population control policies of the late 1970s share many characteristics with US workers.

"Unlike their parents, who experienced hardships like the Cultural Revolution, this generation has experienced 30 years of uninterrupted economic growth and is incredibly optimistic about its career paths," Wang said.

These young workers want money, but more importantly they want the trappings of a comfortable life, he added.

In interviews with Chinese between the ages of 21 and 28 in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, Wang said, the overwhelming majority responded that a balanced life was the most important consideration in job satisfaction, ahead of a good salary and job security.

"To remain attractive to Chinese workers, companies need to understand that paying high salaries is no longer enough to keep executives from jumping ship," Wang said.

Building a better image

Product quality and safety are always the basic and most important issues if a company wants to survive in today's fiercely competitive market, Wang Zhile, director of the Multinational Enterprise Research Center affiliated to the Ministry of Commerce, said.

Building a good brand is a long and difficult process, and any failure concerning the product's quality and safety will severely damage the company, he said.

Wang noted that multinational companies should attach more importance to improving their corporate image among consumers, so they can better integrate into the economy and society.

"Just depending on PR activities to build up corporate image is no longer enough in China, where the legal system is being updated and industrial criteria is catching up to the world standard," Wang said.

"Nowadays, the public is paying more attention to whether multinationals are performing in accordance with the law, and whether they realize their social responsibility."

Premier Wen meets the press

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held a press conference Tuesday morning, following the conclusion of the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature.

Controlling inflation

Premier Wen showed full confidence in controlling inflation this year, although it will not be an easy job.

Wen acknowledged that it will be hard for China to achieve its goal of holding the rise in the consumer price index (CPI) at under 5 percent and controlling price hikes this year.

"We have no plan to change this goal," he told reporters.

The premier explained that it shows the resolve of the government to control price rises and curb inflation by setting the goal.

"With prices rising rapidly, the expectations for price hikes are usually more fearful than the price rises themselves," he said.

In addition, the government has set this goal because it has confidence in what it has, he said, referring to the country's grain reserves of 150 to 200 million tons and general oversupply of major industrial products.

"As long as we take right policies and effective measures, we are fully confident that we can control the trend of excessive rises in prices," he said.

Public finance reform

Regarded as a rarely discussed area in the past, Premier Wen said he resolved to press ahead with public finance reform in his five-year tenure.

Wen said that the reform could help readjust economic structure, optimize economic development pattern and improve livelihood, as well as ecology and the environment.

After maintaining double-digit growth for five consecutive years, the Chinese economy has embarked on a road of rebalancing toward more sustained

(Agencies)

development. This year, the government has coupled its tight monetary policy with a prudent fiscal policy in the hopes of securing a steady economic growth while avoiding overheating.

Wen reiterated that the government and all its institutions belonged to the people.

Taiwan issue

The Chinese mainland will expand the range and scope of business ties and trade with Taiwan, Wen said.

"We will continue to increase exchanges in economic and trade fields with Taiwan. Particularly we want to resume the three direct links between the two sides as quickly as possible," Wen said.

He said the mainland will continue to expand the scope of economic exchanges with Taiwan in such fields as investment, trade, tourism and banking for win-win and mutually beneficial cooperation.

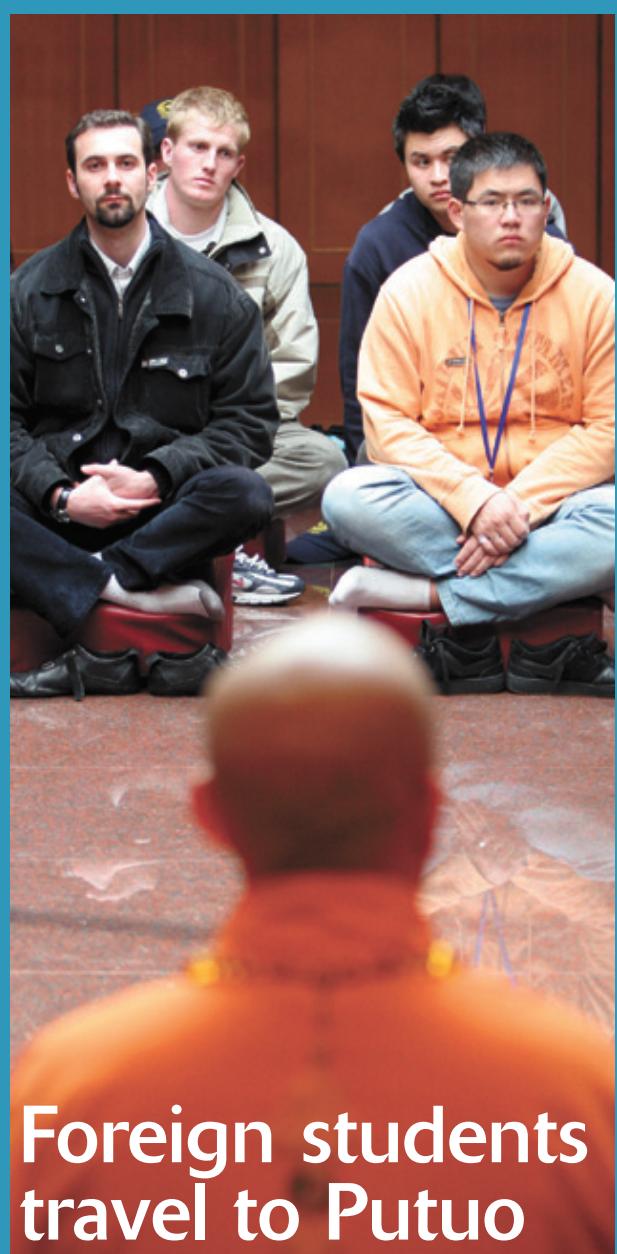
Referring to Taiwan's "UN membership referendum," Wen said it will cause tension across the Taiwan Straits.

The "referendum" will deny the reality that Taiwan and the mainland belong to one China, he said.

It will jeopardize relations across the Straits, harm the fundamental interests of people on both sides and threaten peace across the Straits and even in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

Admitting that the situation in Taiwan is "in a sensitive stage," the Premier said what interests him most is to maintain peace and stability across the Straits and promote common development on both sides.

(Agencies)



Foreign students travel to Putuo

By Li Fenghua

As many as 60 foreign students from six Chinese universities came to the famous Buddhism shrine in Putuo Mountain in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, to experience deep meditation of Buddhism.

The activity was held by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and the Putuo Scenery Administration Committee. It was the first time for such an activity to be held in Putuo which lasted three days since last Saturday.

The students came from more than 20 countries in five continents to study in China.

CFP Photo

China's boom boosts interest in English fiction

(AP) — The rise of China as an economic power has sparked interest in English-language fiction about the country, bringing success to several bilingual authors.

But only a few authors will be remembered once the novelty wears off, according to writers speaking last Tuesday at the annual Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival.

"The Chinese economy and market and politics play such an important role in the world. It's hard to ignore its literature," writer Yan Geling said at the festival, sponsored by the same group of companies behind Britain's Man Booker Prize.

"If you look at the business side (of publishing) for instance in America, there's huge interest in China and everything related to China," fellow author Li Yiyun said.

Yan and Li are part of a new group of mainland Chinese who have enjoyed success writing fiction about their home countries in English after moving to the US.

But Li, author of the award-winning short story collection *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, said only the truly accomplished writers will be remembered when the current fascination for China dies down.

"If you look at literature, it's always a pyramid. It's always the best that will be read in 100 years," she said.

The proliferation of English books about China offers good exposure to Western audiences, Li said, adding that "once they get over that China is so exotic, it's so mysterious, I think that's where real literature comes in."

Yan was an established Chinese-language writer before making her English debut with *The Banquet Bug*. She enjoys writing in Chinese and said she will continue to do so despite her success in English. "Chinese is such an ancient, wonderful, graphic language that I can't give up," she said.

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Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



洋腔论见



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7
Debate

BEIJING TODAY

Editor: Huang Daohen Designer: Zhao Yan

Investors call for intervention as stock market plummets

By Huang Daohen

Stocks plunged for a fifth day Wednesday, pushing the benchmark to an eight-month low and sparking discussion of government intervention to save the market.

"It wasn't supposed to happen, not with the Olympics just around the corner. The government wouldn't allow the stock market to collapse," Chinese investors have said over and over in recent weeks.

On Wednesday, Shanghai's composite stock index fell under 3,700, down from a peak of 6,000 in October, though rebounded moderately to 3,761.60 at close.

"I never thought that it would fall this much before

the Olympics. Now we are all deeply trapped," said Zhang Bai, a local senior whose stock portfolio has lost about 100,000 yuan in value since fall. "Everyone was saying that before the Olympics, it wouldn't fall, but keep rising. Of course I hope the government will do something to save the market."

China's stock market, along with markets around the world, has been deeply rocked by the slowdown in the US economy. There are already signs of softening Chinese exports to the US.

Experts say the biggest challenge in China's stock market is inflation. The government decided this year's top priority is to fight rising consumer

prices. The central government responded Tuesday by raising the bank's reserve requirement ratio to 15.5 percent.

Rumors say the government will take steps to boost the market, perhaps by cutting the stock stamp duty. However, fund managers and senior brokerage analysts said they could not confirm the rumors.

Many investors and some analysts still expect the government to prop up the market, because millions of ordinary citizens have staked their saving and retirement funds on the vitality of the market.

Analysts said such measures will not cause a reversal. Former Morgan Stanley chief economist Xie Guozhong said Chinese

stocks are still too expensive. He cited PetroChina as an example. The company's shares closed Monday at nine yuan in Hong Kong, while its price in Shanghai was 22 yuan.

Xie noted that there is no widespread panic now as the overall trading volume has been low in recent sessions. He reckons that the market will not bottom out until the young, white-collar investors pull out.

Xie said that the government should not save the market, "the US Government has to save the market: not the Chinese government," Xie said. "The reasons for the decline of the two markets and their corresponding economic bodies are not the same."

First SRI fund close launched

(FT) — The first Chinese mutual fund to invest in socially responsible companies in the country is expected to open by the end of the month.

Industrial Fund Management last week received government approval for the fund, but was forced to scale back its expected size and delayed its launch to the end of the month, because investors were wary of committing their money into an equity fund while stock prices are falling, the Shanghai-based company said.

The fund will invest between 65 to 95 percent of its money in equity, and up to 30 percent in bonds. After a spectacular bull run, China's domestic A-share market peaked last October. Since then, the Shanghai composite index has fallen more than 30 percent.

It said the fund would not be restricted to a specific area of social responsibility.

UBL opens Beijing representative office

By Huang Daohen

United Bank Limited established a representative office in Beijing yesterday, with the approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

The representative office will focus on capturing increasing trade flows between China and the UBL franchise countries and will also act as a hub for operating in other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries.

"China is positive towards developing its banking relationship with the Middle East and Pakistan, and this is an opportune time for the bank to capitalize this situation deepening mutual partnership, particularly in the trade sector to capture the regional trade flows," Atif R Bokhari, President and Chief Executive Officer of UBL, said at the press conference.

UBL is the second largest private commercial bank in Pakistan with over 1,000 branches and has an international presence in 10 countries.

Coca-Cola helps improve rural water task

By Huang Daohen

The Coca-Cola Company announced yesterday the launch of the first public-private partnership to improve water access and sanitation between the United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Commerce.

This four-year, US \$ 6.8 million joint project aims to improve water resources allocation in four water stressed provinces including Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Xinjiang and Liaoning.

"Water is our most important ingredient and more urgently than ever before, we need to work together — governments, civil society and businesses — to achieve water sustainability," Paul Etchells, Deputy Group President of Coca-Cola Company in the Pacific, said.

Correction

An editing error led to a mistake in the February 26 article about Rayli Group joining forces with Japan's Kodansha for a new fashion magazine. The magazine published by Kodansha is *Glamorous*, not *Glamour*.

Google joins Tsinghua University on Cloud Computing

By Huang Daohen

Eric Schmidt, president and CEO of Google, came to Beijing Monday to announce Google's cooperation with local universities, starting with Tsinghua University, on Cloud Computing academic programs.

Tsinghua is the first university in China to join Google's Cloud Computing research programs and to work with Google to offer data processing courses.

Cloud Computing — which has attracted the attention of Microsoft and IBM — links large pools of computing systems and allows computers in remote data centers to work on the same task.

"With Cloud Computing, corporate data centers operate more like the Internet, sharing and accessing virtual resources," Schmidt said.

Schmidt estimated that about 90 percent of computing tasks in the future can be done through Cloud Computing.

He said Microsoft's pro-



Google's CEO Eric Schmidt was in Beijing Monday to promote Cloud Computing.

CFP Photo

posed buyout of Yahoo will hurt the Internet.

"We would be concerned with any kind of acquisition of Yahoo by

Microsoft because of Microsoft's past history and the things it has done that have been so difficult for everyone," Schmidt said.

"We would hope that anything they did would be consistent with the openness of the Internet, but I doubt it will be," he added.

First jumbo jet company to open

The country's first jumbo passenger aircraft company, with a registered capital of 20 billion yuan (US \$2.82 billion), is set to begin operations in Shanghai.

The company will be set up next week or sometime before May, depending on when it can finish registration, Wednesday's China Securities Journal cited sources close to the matter as saying.

Major shareholders, includ-

ing the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the Shanghai government, aviation companies and other state-owned enterprises will gather in Shanghai for the first board meeting on Friday.

Each of the three state-owned firms, namely the country's major metal producers, Baosteel and Chinalco, as well as Sinochem, will invest 1 billion yuan

for a 5 percent stake.

China's top two aircraft producers, the China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) and the China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II), will mainly invest in the form of production assets they now have.

Earlier reports said AVIC I and AVIC II would hold an equal stake. The actual figure was unavailable.

The new company will be responsible for project management, design, test flights, sales and after service, Jin Xingming, the aviation administration of Shanghai director, said.

China plans to fly its first jumbo plane in 15 years. It usually takes 10 to 20 years of research and development to develop such a company, an Avic I source said. (Agencies)

Guilty or not guilty

By Gan Tian

At around 1 am, last November 12, Ji Huanling, a fresh graduate from Shenzhen University, fell from an overpass onto Shennan Dong Lu Road in Shenzhen, and was dragged 20 meters by a passing BMW. When the ambulance arrived Ji had already stopped breathing.

Some at the scene claimed that when the car hit Ji, it did slow down slightly, but then raced away. The police report found the crime was committed by a BMW 740 with license plate "Guangdong D/A 9925." The police went to Shantou, Guangdong Province to escort the owner, surnamed Weng, back to Shenzhen for questioning. However, on March 7 this year, the police said Weng was not guilty.

Ji's mother, Deng, said she could not accept the fact that the owner was let off scot-free. Deng had divorced from her husband, so her friends were helping with Ji's case. The Traffic Accident Certification, issued by the police, said, "Weng was not being held responsible for this accident." Deng said no one expected to see this surprising result.

She said it could not be difficult for the police to collect evidence, since there were many witnesses at the scene and digital cameras installed in the overpass.

The Shenzhen Evidence Identification Center examined Ji's body after the accident and concluded her death was due to "falling from a high place causing extreme damage to his skull, and then being hit by



Ji Huanling's sudden death drew public concern over moral standards.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

other vehicles which damage his breathing capacity." The police said no one could be charged with manslaughter.

The police said it was an unexpected incident, so neither side was responsible. A worker on the Luohu Traffic Police Team said that they were all judging the case according to related regulations.

The Traffic Accident Certification in this case, stood on No 3, Article 45 of Provisions on the Procedures for Handling Traffic Accidents issued in 2004, which said "if none of the parties make a mistake and the traffic accident happens unexpectedly, none of the parties shall be held responsible."

Comment

Right to sue

The victim's family has the right to sue the insurance company and the car owner.

According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Road Traffic Safety, where a traffic accident occurs between the driver of a motor vehicle and the driver of a non-motor vehicle or a pedestrian, the driver of the motor vehicle shall bear the liability.

— Xu Tianping, a lawyer in Guangzhou

Above the law?

Driving a BMW? It must have been a corrupt official

who had the power to rise above the law. Please do something to those who have governmental powers.

Being rich doesn't mean controlling justice!

— Xiaoyuan_123

Minus morals

If I were the driver, I would feel guilty whatever the result was!

At least he could compensate Ji's family a little to ease their sorrow. He was totally cold blooded in this case. I am wondering where has all the virtue gone?

— Coldworld

Sex photo scandal used as teaching tool

By Li Fenghua

The sex photo scandal was used in an examination and as a teaching tool in a Guangzhou middle school recently, triggering heated debate amongst the public.

A new semester begun, and the sex photo scandal remains a hot topic among students. Lots of senior students have been transmitting these photos using their mobile phones. Even some primary students are talking about the sex photos and the "special" words used in the scandal.

Parents are worried about the situation. Many think that the school should do something about the problem and give the students wise advice and direction on how to treat such photos. But most middle and primary schools have kept a low profile on the matter.

Teachers in Chengdu talked about the sex photo scandal in class as a segue into sex education.

Sex education in China is still very backward. Parents and teachers dare not talk about sex with children because they believe that the earlier a child learns about sex, the earlier they will engage in it.

According to a report, there are about 2 million women annually who have abortions nationwide, 25 percent of them are girls under 18 years old. Most of these girls are good students in school.

Comment

No big fuss

There is no big fuss about bringing sex photo scandal to the class and in the examination. It is natural and suitable for a youngster who is growing up to know more about the real world and society.

Our education should be more connected with the real life. The sex photo scandal provided a lively sample for our education.

— Wu Tianmeng, reporter from Chinese Youth Daily

Explicit exams

It is closer to real life, and Chinese tests should be more like this. I hope more and more examinations will be carried out in this fashion.

— Students from Guangzhou

Overexposure

It has heightened the negative impact of the sex photo scandal since some of the students may not have known about it. They may want to know more about the scandal after taking the exam.

— Lin Jianping, a reporter from Jiangnan Shibaobao

Heads in the sand

I agree with teachers who discuss such hot topics with their students. It is actually taking preventive measures.

We can't just talk about the good things and say nothing about the bad. If we can't give the right direction to students, they will invariably go the wrong way since young minds are always curious about the unknown.

— Ren Zhongrui, headmaster of a middle school

Recreational or commercial park?

By Zhang Dongya

A gigantic commercial project named, "Blue Harbor Solana" with 19 buildings and 150,000 square meters will appear in Chaoyang Park this May. It will be the first time a shopping center is erected inside a park.

Solana, costing 20 billion yuan, boasts Beijing's first lifestyle shopping center. It is in the northwest corner of Chaoyang Park Lake, with the lake on its eastern and southern sides. Developed by a Beijing-based

investment company named Blue Harbor Solana is designed to provide many dining and entertainment options including shopping malls, clubs, hotels and cinemas. At least 30 dining rooms and 29 bars from all over the world will be established.

As it is the first time such a large commercial project has been inserted into a park, some people are concerned. A citizen surnamed Yu said, "Chaoyang Park is the biggest park in Beijing. It is commercial

enough. If you attach such a big shopping mall, can it still be called a park?"

"It is an attempt to meet citizens' demands for a multi-functional park in the city," Tian Jinxian, general manager of Chaoyang Park Development and Management Company said. "It is not the commercialization of a park, but a new way to realize the multi-functional capabilities of a modern park by adding new facilities in certain areas."

Tian holds that this new

establishment of Blue Harbor Solana will fill the dining, recreational and shopping gaps in the park. In his opinion, citizens should have the chance to enjoy more than just walking and boating in a park, they should be able to have a drink at a pub when they are tired or shop.

Blue Harbor Solana occupies 7 hectares in the northwest corner of the 288 hectare Chaoyang Park. "The park will remain unchanged main function, that being recreation for general citizens," Tian said.

Comment

Anxious for the opening

I learned about Solana last year and I am really anxious for it to open. I hope it will be just like they claim: a new lifestyle, top brand merchandise and experiential shopping.

— Ricky Wang, office lady

Sacrificing public area

It doesn't make sense to me since I don't like shop-

ping and seldom go to a park. However, I'm wondering whether it is a project related to municipal government, or just a commercial venture by the park itself.

If the government approved the project it is to some extent sacrificing public land. I don't think that is proper.

— Ryan Zhang

Attractive idea

It is an attractive and novel idea to go shopping or visit a pub in a park. I wonder if I will have to pay the park's admission price if I just want to buy a T-shirt.

I think it is weird to have to pay admission if you are just shopping. Since it is only occupying the corner of the park,

does this mean the shopping center will be separate from the park, or, at least, there will be another entrance to the park?

— Sherry Zhang, student

Influential risk

I hope it will not influence the whole park, since it caters to more citizens in summer, especially the older ones.

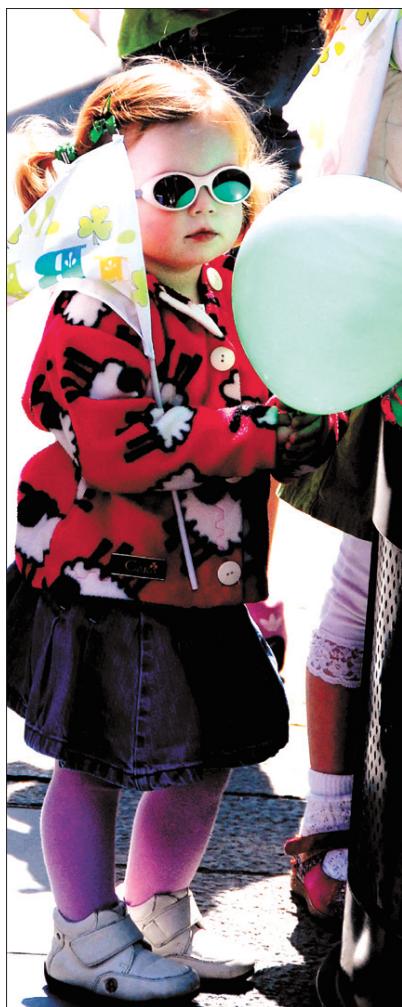
— Lily, resident



Smiling faces salute St. Patty's Day.

CFP Photos

China goes green for St. Patty's Day



Is it a leprechaun?

CFP Photo

By Huang Daohen

The world was covered in shamrocks and "puttin' on the green" Monday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a salute to the man who brought Christianity to Ireland in the middle of the fifth century.

Beijing was no exception. The city held its first St. Patrick's Day parade this year on Wangfujing Street in Dongcheng district, amid an Irish culture-themed week.

Hundreds of Irish citizens in the city gathered Monday to celebrate the memory of their country's patron saint with home-from-home flagons of Irish Guinness and coffee, Irish songs and dance and anything else to do with the green.



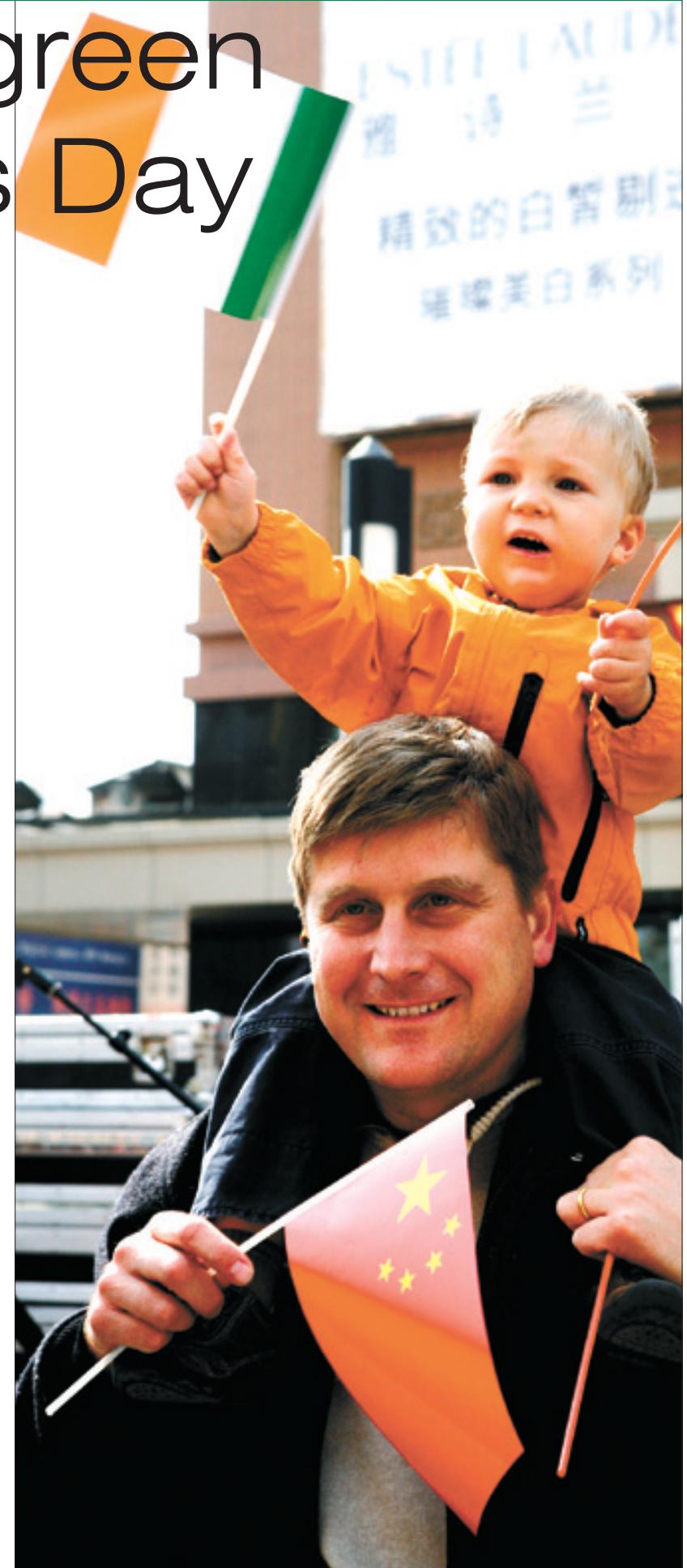
Lots of smiles for the Emerald Isles.



Shamrock 'n' roll



Everybody got "behind" the Irish.



Irish eyes are smiling.

Photos provided by Irish Embassy in China

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Irish dancers relate to the body's tale

By Jackie Zhang

Fearghus O'Conchuir and his partner Matthew Morris were invited as the guest performers at the Irish Cultural Festival Beijing. Arriving in Beijing last week, they scheduled their time around Saturday and had a dance workshop with Chinese young people at the Beijing Modern Dance Company.

The number of participants was planned to be no more than 20. However, 50 boys and girls showed up. More than half of the attendees had to sit around.

Conchuir and Morris were pleased to see so many young Chinese people interested in dancing. For more than half of the time, Morris led the boys and girls in basic dancing warm ups and taught them simple movements.

"I'm happy to see these dancers are interested in learning. Although some of them are not professional, they are trying hard to learn," Morris said. He said that Chinese dancers have different training on how to release their bodies' inhibitions and dancing techniques. "This was evident in their dance style."

"Their movements are beautiful and smooth," Conchuir said. In his opinion, the body records a person's history. "My body remembers my history, my

family, my country and culture. And also I can read your history and your country's culture in your body."

Conchuir is interested in the human body. He said when you dance, you feel your body moving and expressing information of your inner mind through the movements. Besides, the relationship between the body and architecture attracted Conchuir even more.

"The world is still developing. Tall buildings appear everyday in our cities. Today, I walk down the street and see three small houses on the road side. My body remembers those houses. But several days later, the three small houses are gone replaced by one tall building. The body at first reacts strangely to the new structure, and then adapts."

This is more obvious in developing countries and cities. In Beijing, more and more hutongs are torn down and more and more tall buildings are being built. What can people do to adapt to the changes. "For me, I dance to let the body release," Conchuir said. "The key is to feel your body at any time and be aware of the its needs."

At the end of the workshop, Conchuir and Morris taught the dancers part of their duet,



Fearghus O'Conchuir and his partner Matthew Morris are not fighting, instead, dancing at the open class.

Photo by Yang Dawei

Match, a men's double dance about sports and love. It is also the dance Conchuir and Morris

performed for the Ireland Cultural Festival at Wangfujing Street on Tuesday.

Greenpeace sizes up supermarkets



Photo provided by Greenpeace

By Annie Wei

Consumers are becoming more aware of genetically-modified food containing chemical residue, according to Greenpeace Beijing.

The group wants supermarkets in town to set up a monitoring system and be responsible to the consumers' diet, especially for private-labeled products.

To guide consumers in their daily food shopping, Greenpeace came out with its shopping guidebook last week and rated popular supermarkets.

According to its ratings, Walmart, Tesco, Makro, Wu-mart, Bailian Group (Lianhua supermarket) and Lotus scored poorly on greener or healthier food.

Another three supermarkets, Carrefour, Auchon and Park'n'Shop were rated as having a better food monitoring system.

The rating system is based

on two parts, Greenpeace said, one for genetically-modified food and the other for chemical-residue control policy.

Greenpeace asked these supermarkets if they had committed to avoiding modified food and installed chemical residue control management on fresh fruits and vegetables, along with their suppliers, if their privately-labeled food had a traceability system, if they had a third-party to test their products regularly and if they announced their testing results to public.

Greenpeace said rating results were based on these supermarkets' formal feedback and their portal information.

It said it will carry out regular tests on supermarkets' privately-labeled products, to make sure they do not have genetically-modified ingredients or chemical residue.

Let performers' freedom flow

By Gan Tian

Rene Ng, a Canadian, 32, held auditions for the Beijing International Theater and Entertainment's (BITE) environmentally-themed comedy, *Lean, Mean and Green*. The show, wandering from tradition, will be played in a Mosaic Theater mode.

Mosaic Theater is a theatrical process created by Ng and colleague Kris Chung, that uses the natural attitudes and creative abilities of different actors to create a show. For example, in *Lean, Mean and Green*, Ng has created a structure, and then lets the cast improvise. "After the cast comes together, they create their own characters. They are in charge of what and who they want to be," he said, "but I do have a basic framework."

To select the cast in the theater was difficult. "Once you do it, you have to remember it," Ng said, "and they should all act naturally."

In the environmentally-based show, each cast member is free to choose his or her character. There are hip-hoppers, factory owners, super environmentalists and others. Ng thought the environment issue in town has become more important now, but there

should be an interesting way to showcase it. In the production, a character raps on *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The show is going to be staged at the end of May into early June. In the following next two months, Ng and his colleagues will hone the casts' impromptu acting skills. The community theater will often be challenged with the problem of scheduling, but Ng said he was not afraid of that. He could divide the cast into two parts and do the rehearsals separately.

Ng, now an English teacher, started his theater career six months ago. He is also the executive director of BITE. In this community theater, some actors might love the theme while others may hate the concept, and still others who could be completely indifferent.

This point of BITE's view will lay the basis for the actor's character within the piece. Rather than having the director or the script dictate roles, the actor has total freedom to sculpt his or her own character or to simply be themselves. That is one of the secret weapons of the theater. "We may start our Olympic theater in August, and later, there will be other themes," Ng said.

Event

Lecture: Living With Cannibals

Living with Cannibals is a multi-media lecture illustrated with photographs and videos that recounts an expedition into West Papua to research, document and live with the indigenous Kombai Tribe. Oliver Steeds, a journalist and adventurer, will present the lecture. The traditional hunter-gatherer way of life of the Kombai has changed little for thousands of years and features stone tools, tree houses, penis gourds, tribal conflicts and the occasional bout of cannibalism.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 25, 7:30 pm
Tel: 6586 9507

Talk: China's Rural Organizations

The viability of agriculture heavily depends on the nature and level of organization amongst farmers. Chinese agriculture scholar Tong Zhihui will discuss this topic and the evolution of farmers' organizations over 30 years of reform. The talk will be conducted in Chinese with English interpretation.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anji-alou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 26, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday – Friday, 9 am – 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Presentation: Key Strengths and Challenges in China's Economy 2008:

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China will have a breakfast meeting and invite Sara Dahlsten, the secretary for economy at the Embassy of Sweden, to give a presentation on the topic, China's Economy: Key Strengths and Challenges in 2008.

Where: Ballroom 1, Radisson SAS Hotel, A 6 Donglu, North Three Ring Road, Chaoyang District

When: March 26, 8 am – 9:30 am

Cost: one member free of charge, 150 yuan per person for members, 300 yuan per person for non-members

Tel: 5922 3388 ext 313

Booktalk: China Into The Future

The Foreign Correspondents Club of China will invite W John Hoffmann and Michael J Enright to talk about their book, *China Into The Future: Making Sense of the Most Dynamic Economy*.

Where: Tony's Red House, the small red house inside the Jianguomen Diplomatic Compound, between buildings 1 and 2, Chaoyang District

When: March 25, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Cost: Members and Chinese journalists 50 yuan, non-members 100 yuan

Tel: 8532 5458

(By He Jianwei)

Standard contracts for classical furniture sales

By Jackie Zhang

Last week, standard contracts for furniture purchase were published and delivered to the owners of more than 400 furniture stores in Gaobeidian area, Chaoyang district. The contracts guarantee to benefit both the customers and store owners.

In the past, when a standard contract was not used, a few furniture stores had their own personally-designed agreement for furniture purchase. Because most customers were frequent visitors, store owners did not think contracts were important.

"Once, a frequent visitor came and bought furniture. He ordered the product and filled in the agreement. But when he got the furniture and transported it back home, he delayed payment. The customer said it was useless to take him to court because the agreement was not standard," a store owner said.

"Some stores had no self-made agreement but negotiated and settled using an oral agreement based solely on trust," Liu Xin from Gaobeidian Village Committee, said.

Half a year ago, furniture store owners, village committee staff and industry and commerce departments gathered and started to discuss creating a stan-



Gaobeidian's 400 stores are known for re-producing old-style furniture as required. Photo by Yang Mingjing

dard contract.

The contract contents are detailed, including every kind of wood category; whether you order the furniture or buy a finished product; the style you order and so on. The contract is a guarantee between the customer and store owner. Once there are prob-

lems, it is easy to tell who should be responsible according to the contract," Liu said.

Liu said that the contract is two pages. Customers need to fill in every detail about the furniture they buy and write any additional requirements in the contract.

Many have already used the

contracts since they were delivered to store owners last Friday.

A customer said the contract instilled confidence in him concerning the Gaobeidian furniture market.

"It shows that the market is making an effort and changing for the better," he said.

Gov bans liquids on domestic flights

By Han Manman

Baby food, cosmetics and medicine, among others, will all be banned from carry-on luggage on domestic flights following the implementation of a new regulation that went into effect last Friday.

The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) issued a notice specifying details of what liquids could no longer be taken onto aircraft. The industry watchdog said the move was to ensure passenger safety and property security. It also said CAAC will make stringent safety checks to secure flight safety ahead of and during the Olympic Games.

The ban was instituted after two suspects were caught on a plane flying from Urumqi in

the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Beijing on March 7.

The suspects, including a 18-yaer-old Uygur girl, allegedly planned to ignite gasoline that they had smuggled on to the China Southern Airlines flight.

The new regulation

Passengers with an infant need to apply in advance with the airline to provide them with formula or baby food free of charge, according to the notice.

Others are forbidden to carry any liquids on board. The CAAC said liquids could be put in luggage in the aircraft's hold.

Cosmetics under 100 milliliters each will be allowed on, but must be put in separate bags which can be opened for security checks.

Diabetics or other patients who need to carry liquid medicine will have to give it to the flight staff to hold until after clearing a security check.

Inspectors will open and check more hand baggage than previously. "Easy boarding" services, where passengers pay for the privilege of speedier security checks and priority boarding, have been canceled, the administration said.

Early bird gets the flight

Some passengers in Beijing missed their flights on the first day of the new regulation because they had to queue for security checks or transfer items like drinks and toothpaste from carry-on bags to checked luggage.

According to the CAAC, passengers can change to a later flight if they are delayed by the longer security checks at Beijing International Airport caused by the new rule.

Airport authorities reminded air travelers to get to the airport earlier if they needed to have their luggage checked.

List of banned liquids

Drink, including mineral water, milk, soup, syrup and any other kinds of beverage.

Cosmetic, including creams, body lotions, perfumes.

Aerosol cans including shaving foam and spray deodorant.

Pastes including toothpaste and hair gel

Contact lens cleaning liquid

Where to put down roots

By Annie Wei

It is the season for planting trees. The local forestry authority announced 28 spots to plant trees. Below is the contact infor-

mation for all the venues. Give them a call and they will arrange for you visit to the place, prepare you a tree and select a time for a meaningful tree-planting day!

District	Location	Tel
Dongcheng District	Jiulong Mountain, Mentoukou	6984 4610
Xicheng District	Dongbei Miaopu, Chaoyang District	8431 2316
Chongwen District	Pingyucun, Shidu county, Fangshan District	6138 9264
Xuanwu District	Qinglongxia, Huaiyuan District	13910255993 / 6964 2794
Chaoyang District	Greenlane of Jingcheng express way, Cuigezhuang	6431 2861
Haidian District	Wenquan County, Sijiqing Xingye Company	6245 6859
Shunyi District	Beishan of Dingjiazhuang, Longwutun County	6944 2974



Kungfu students from Shaolin Temple, Henan Province, spent a day planting trees. Photo by Chen Gengsheng

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

Every time I hang around at Wangfujing Dajie, I am stopped by people who want to show me around or practice their English. They are aged 20-30. Some approach me like students in a groups of two or three. Is this normal behavior in China?

It is not normal in China, but it is true that some students are just looking for native-English speakers to practice their English. If you do not feel comfortable with that, just say no and walk away. There was a teahouse or art gallery scam reported recently involving some foreigners accepting "showing-around offers" from young women in the guise of students who were ripped off in high priced teahouses or art galleries. Two former expat employees from *Beijing Today* tried to write an article on the scam but reported "being treated very friendly" out in the field.

I am looking for tanning products in Beijing or tanning services. Do you know of any?

Shiseido at Pacific Century Plaza near Sanlitun has tanning products. Most famous cosmetic brands do not sell tanning products in China as local consumers prefer whitening products more. You can try taobao.com to get other tanning products. For tanning services, you can visit Bronze Bodies on the six floor of the building across the street from Gongti Bei Men.

I have many friends and family members visiting soon. I need to pick them up at the airport. I am looking for cheap transportation there and back. Do you know how I can do this without a taxi?

There are many airport shuttle buses. You can find them at many stations, like the north gate of Beihang University, Zhongguncun, and Dongzhimen. Each trip costs 16 yuan and the wait time is 15-30 minutes per shuttle.

For detailed schedule information in 2008, please check beijinggongjiao.org.cn/jichangdaba.htm.

My friend is visiting me soon. I want to show her around and take her out for some amazing Chinese food. However, she is allergic to gluten. How can I tell the people in restaurant that she cannot eat anything with gluten?

The dictionary explains that gluten is called *mianjin* in Chinese. However, *mianjin* is found in certain foods here, especially in north China. Ninety-nine percent of the people working in Chinese restaurants do not know that they should not serve your friend soy sauce, noodles, steamed bread or any gluten meat substitutes. You should just avoid them when ordering and make sure they do not cook dishes with soy sauce.

(By Wei Ying)



The wall series, Untouched

Photo by LuJiazu

Viewers might lose their way when they visit this exhibition of visual arts from Ireland, not because of the zigzagged layout of the Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, but because the curators juxtaposed the scenes from Ireland's rural county and China's capital.

As one of the highlights of the Irish Cultural Festival, the visual arts program consists of three parts, Through the Lens: New Media Art from Ireland, Varvara Shavrova: Untouched, and Malcolm McClay: The Lost Year.

The exhibition started last Sunday and will end on March 30. "The works of new media in Ireland have never seen in Beijing before. All the artists live abroad and they perceive the outside world through Irish eyes," Varvara Shavrova, one of the curators and artists, said.

Walking into the main exhibiting room on the underground floor of the museum, viewers will be greeted by a TV playing Varvara Shavrova's video covering her experiences in Beijing and County Mayo in Ireland.

Shavrova, born in Moscow, now divides her time between two homes, one in a rural area of western Ireland, the other in a hutong in Beijing. She began to work on the project when she came to China three years ago. Since 2006, she has studied the lives in Beijing's hutongs and compare them to her experience living in rural Ireland.

The project is presented as large-scale photographic installation in the form of videos and slide shows, where the black and white images of old hutong neighborhoods are set against photographs of abandoned cottages in rural County Mayo in Ireland.

Shot in a documentary style, the video conjures up a compelling story of personal experiences and creates vivid portraits of local neighborhoods and the people living there, both on the brink of extinction.

Through Shavrova's camera, locals talk about the changes in their lives. "Although the buildings have been abandoned or torn down and the local communities have disappeared, the concept of family has not been changed in people's mind," she said.

As well as the videos, four slide shows display Shavrova's photos of old and new Beijing and County Mayo on the walls of the exhibiting room in three series, including the walls, rooms and people series.

She chose the small farming community of Ballycastle in County Mayo and a hutong neighborhood in Dashilan in Beijing as her subjects. The two communities are currently undergoing major redevelopment. Through her lens, she captured Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" phenomenon, a name for the period of rapid economic growth in the Republic of Ireland that began in the 1990s and slowed in 2001, only to pick up pace again in 2003 and then slow down once again in 2006. During this time, Ireland experienced a boom in which it was transformed from one of Europe's poorer countries into one of its wealthiest, and a dramatic expansion of the world's fastest growing economy.

These changes seem to affect the socio-economic structures of China and Ireland in a very similar manner, and there are fascinating comparisons to be drawn between the ways in which drastic economic changes have had an impact on the lives of ordinary people around the world today.

"Many changes happened fast over the past 10 years. More and more people in Ireland became affluent and the economy's changes influenced the art," she said.

The viewers are invited to make a connec-

Surprising s

An Irish village and a Chinese city share the same first Irish new media exhibition in Beijing

By He Jianwei

A small rural County Mayo along the west coast of Ireland has experienced great changes. Its buildings lie abandoned and its community has been reorganized. On another coast, Beijing, the capital of the largest developing country, shares fascinating similarities in the process of urbanization, as captured in an Irish artist's lens.



Varvara Shavrova, one of the curators and artists

Photo by LuJiazu

“We don't tell the viewers where the photo was taken. Sometimes even I can't recognize which one is taken in Beijing and which is taken in Ballycastle. We hope when people walk along the walls it will be like walking through a hutong in Beijing or down a street in Ballycastle**”**

tion between the two seemingly different cultures and experiences, in order to understand and sympathize with the scale of changes on a human rather than on a political level.

Although Shavrova's photographs are devoid of people, their absence becomes poignant through the scribbling on a semi-demolished wall of an old house in Beijing, or an abandoned bible sitting on an old fireplace in a derelict farmer's cottage in Ballycastle.

"In Ballycastle, the old buildings are abandoned for no reason. The insides of the houses are kept intact like in a museum. In Beijing, hutongs have been demolished, as people moved to apartments," she said.

In Ballycastle, the rich people built new houses near the old buildings adopting American styles. "Some of the abandoned houses are used as warehouses to store hay; and some have fences in front of the doors to keep cows or other animals from entering," she said.

In another series of slides, Shavrova selected 20 photos of abandoned walls taken in Ballycastle and Beijing. She set up 10 dwarf walls and on each side is a photo from each place.

"We don't tell the viewers where the photo was taken. Sometimes even I can't recognize which one is taken in Beijing and which is taken in Ballycastle. We hope when people walk along the walls it will be like walking through a hutong in Beijing or down a street in Ballycastle," she said.

With her project, "Untouched," Shavrova wanted to show that the future is more exciting. "It is not necessary for us to dwell in the past. We must look forward to the future," she said.



Photos provided by Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City

similarities

one story in the

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ies in its



Walls and abandoned houses in an Irish village, Ballycastle, and Beijing tell the same story



In the projection room, 8 Irish new media artists present 14 videos, which represent the second part of the exhibition. They are:

Shavrova: "Borders"

The work was filmed on the borders of Russia and China. The artist questions the notion of borders in both the physical and metaphorical sense.

Dorothy Cross (Dublin):

"Antarctica" and "Jellyfish Lake"

"Antarctica" is a silent video in black and white, which shows a woman diving under icebergs in the Antarctica; "Jellyfish Lake" relates closely to "Antarctica," in which a woman is filmed underwater with jellyfish swimming around her.

Isabel Nolan (Dublin):

"Quiet, Please" and "The Condition of Emptiness"

"Quiet, Please" involves a personal account by someone just stirred from sleep and their encounter with a mysterious, barely visible presence. "Condition of Emptiness" is an animated piece based on the artist's drawings, in which the main character describes their recent life where they lived without language, removing all text and audio from their surroundings. They now decide to return to normal life and explain why.

Garrett Phelan (Dublin):

"Scum of the Earth"

In this film, the image is of a masked human lifting his head intermittently, the figure in effect is tapping out a message in Morse code.

Paul Rowley and David Philips (New York):

animation, "Commonwealth" and video installation, "Gravity Loop"

"Gravity Loop" is a series of photographs and video works which reconfigures a single image in order to present multiple approaches to viewing time. "Commonwealth" examines ideas of social progress through re-visiting the Soviet space program of the 1960s, in particular, Yuri Gagarin's orbit of the earth in 1961.

Grace Weir (Dublin):

"In My Own Time," "Dust Defying Gravity," "The Turning Point"

"In My Own Time" investigates the notions of time and light; "Dust Defying Gravity" describes the movement of a dust particle falling through the interior spaces of the Dunsink Observatory in Dublin and "The Turning Point" is a short film with three things occurring at the same time, including a man opening the curtains, a car passing by and a tree on the road rotating and spinning around from the momentum of the car's passing.

Declan Clarke (London and Dublin):

"Trauma and Romance," "Everything Must Finally Fall"

"Trauma and Romance" discusses the concept of the artist. He believes an artist is a critic both in politics and culture. In "Everything Must Finally Fall," a plane flies through the city with a banner displaying the words, "I HAVE DOUBT."

Malcolm McClay (US):

"The Long Corridor"

It is a journey through post Katrina New Orleans. The video takes the viewers from the weeks after the storm to present day, chronicling the immediate devastation, through to returning New Orleanians gutting their homes and rebuilding.

As well as the videos on the first floor, McClay exhibits photos of "The Lost Year," a photographic journey through post Katrina New Orleans. The title refers to the year after Katrina hit when little in the city functioned. No schools were open so there were no children. There were constant blackouts; most businesses were closed and the streets were filled with mountains of debris.

As the viewers take a look at the slides and photos, video sound pieces from "Untouched" fill in the background. Shavrova hopes the viewers not only watch the images of the works, but also feel moved to walk through a hutong or down a Ballycastle street, when they hear the local residents talk about their daily lives.

A year later in post Katrina New Orleans



Irish Cultural Festival Beijing 2008: Visual Arts Program

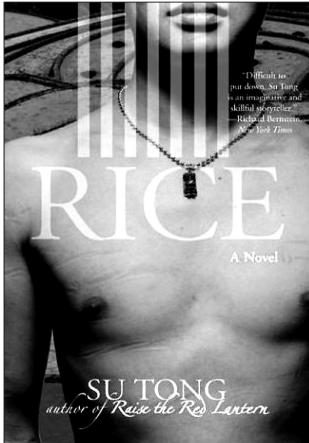
Where: Beijing Art Museum of Imperial City, 9 Changpuhe Yan, Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Until 30

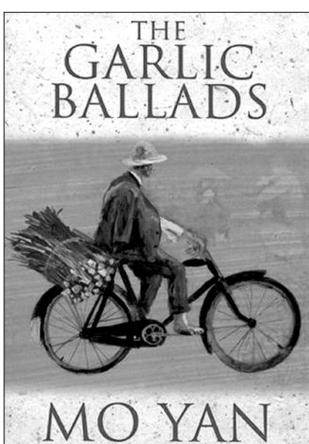
Tel: 6523 9146

Website: bamoi.info

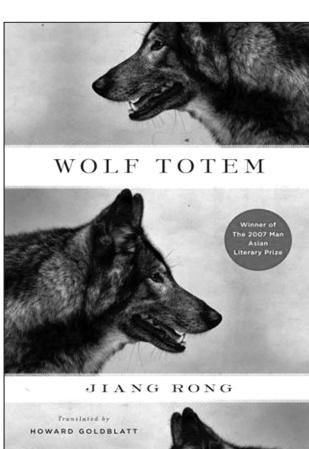
Veteran translator bridges modern, contemporary literature for West



Rice



The Garlic Ballads



Wolf Totem



Notes of a Desolate Man

By He Jianwei

"There is no such thing as a good translator. The best translators make the worst mistakes, and no matter how much I love them, all translators must be closely watched," Howard Goldblatt said.

It might seem an odd statement, since Goldblatt himself is a translator. He has taught, studied and translated modern and contemporary Chinese literature for a quarter of a century. He brought his latest translation, Jiang Rong's *Wolf Totem* (544pp, Penguin Press, US \$26.95) to The Bookworm last Thursday, where he talked about translation of modern and contemporary Chinese literature.

Goldblatt studied Chinese in Taipei in the 1960s. He wrote his dissertation on Northeastern writers in Manchukuo (1931-1945), which no one else had been doing. "I sort of discovered Xiao Hong for us here in the States, and even for people in China," he said.

Most readers first saw his work in Chen Jo-hsi's *The Execution of Mayor Yin*

(248pp, Indiana University Press), published in 1979. The publisher needed to have a native English speaker to translate the book, and since Goldblatt was an Indiana University graduate, he was offered the task.

In the early 1980s, Grove Press called on him to translate a novel by Zhang Jie. "That book (*Heavy Wings*, 308pp) did reasonably well, so I decided that this was what I wanted to do," he said.

Goldblatt has translated many modern and contemporary writers. A lot of works he translated are historical fictions or fictions related to history.

He said China's literature and history are inseparable.

"I think that's what the generation of writers that I've been working with the most do best in Chinese literature," he said. Writers like Mo Yan, Li Rui, Su Tong and Li Yongping "tend to be anti-historians, in terms of their view of China," he said.

"Historical fiction is what they like to do the most, and I think that they write least well when they're dealing with things like normal human interaction," he said.

Goldblatt said many young Chinese novelists do not deal well

with contemporary values. He said many writers try to represent a new cultural milieu, and borrow it from the West.

"I don't think the youngsters read enough. The older generation read a lot, but didn't spend enough time on the craft, although some do. The young kids now don't read enough. They're too busy living, having a good time," he said.

Goldblatt said translators are responsible to the author, to the text and to readers. "The translator's primary obligation is to the readers, not the writers. I realize that a lot of people don't agree, especially writers. But I do think that we need to produce something that can be readily accepted by an American readership," he said.

When translating books from Chinese into English, Goldblatt believed not knowing Chinese well enough was not a big problem. "You can always ask someone. You can ask your author and your friends," he said.

When he translated Mo Yan's *Big*

Breasts and Wide Hips, he wrote to the author to ask about the dialect in the novel. "I wrote to him in Chinese. Maybe he thought I was a Chinese, so he wrote back with a brush. He was good at calligraphy, but I could hardly read it," he said.

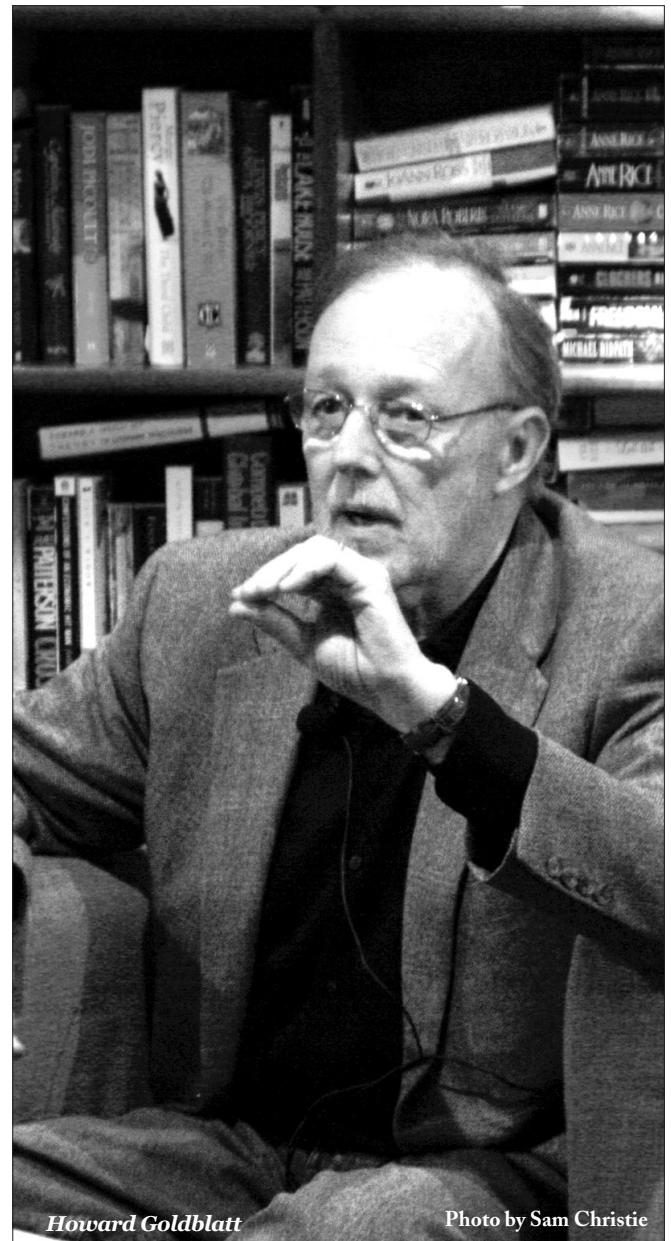
Goldblatt has a close relationship with Mo, and has translated six of Mo's novels. "Mo can't read the English, but said, 'It's not my novel anymore. It's yours. It's got my name and my copyright, but it belongs to you,'" he said.

Some writers do not allow translators to even slightly change their wording, but others have allowed Goldblatt to alter the structure of the story.

When he translated Liu Zhenyun's *Cell Phone*, he made a serious alteration to the original work. In the original, Liu began the story 30 years earlier as a child to set the scene, then jumped to present, and then back into the character's grandmother's story.

Goldblatt thought it was boring for English readers. "I told the author I would take the first section of the second part, which is only six or eight pages, and put it at the beginning. So first you give it a contemporary setting, and then you do the flashback," he said.

“ The translator's primary obligation is to the readers, not the writers. I realize that a lot of people don't agree, especially writers. But I do think that we need to produce something that can be readily accepted by an American readership. ”



Howard Goldblatt

Photo by Sam Christie

Books translated by Howard Goldblatt

Wolf Totem

By Jiang Rong, 544pp, Penguin Press

An epic Chinese tale in the vein of *The Last Emperor*, *Wolf Totem* depicts the dying culture of the Mongols – the descendants of the Mongol hordes who conquered most of the known world – and the parallel extinction of an animal they held as sacred: the fierce and otherworldly Mongolian wolf.

Rice

By Su Tong, 288pp, Harper Perennial

Set in China's famine-stricken 1930s, *Rice* chronicles the complete debasement of a city family after it takes in a young man named Five Dragons, a starving wanderer from the provinces whose desire for power and sex is insatiable.

The Garlic Ballads

By Mo Yan, 308pp, Arcade Publishing

This epic novel of beauty and brutality, set in a landscape at once strange and alluring, paints a portrait of a people whose fierce passions break the rigid confines of their ancient traditions.

Notes of a Desolate Man

By Chu T'ien-wen, 184pp, Columbia University

The narrator Xiao Shao recollects a series of friends and lovers as he watches Ah Yao, his childhood friend, succumb to complications from AIDS. The brute fact of Ah Yao's death focuses Shao's simultaneously erudite and erotic reflections magnetically on the core theme of mortality.

Escaping the otaku obsession



Retreat from reality

Hu Liangxi, vice director of social education and research at Zhongshan University, breaks China's otaku into three levels. The serious otaku retreats entirely into his room and refuses to communicate with anyone, even parents. They only exit their rooms to eat. The less serious otaku can still manage basic communication with family. The entry level otaku only associates with other students who go straight home after school.

Hu said an institute in Hong Kong researched the local school-going population and found 7,000 adolescents fit the otaku profile. "I estimate there may be 20,000 by now," Hu said.

Chen Liru, a physiologist in Guangzhou, said teenagers easily hide from disappointment or failure in reality by retreating into a visual world.

"The generation born in the 1980s is the first group of only-children. They were spoiled," Chen said. When it is time for them to step into society and face failure, many abandon ship and become otaku.

Hu said otaku are formed by their families. Parents who pamper and dote on their children and worry they may make bad friends prefer to keep them home, where they spend considerable time on the Internet, Hu said. If they spend all their time playing computer games, the parents assume all is well and make sure their meals are always ready.

When obsession goes too far

One otaku woman shared her story on the Web site:

"I was outgoing as a child, but things changed when I got to college. I thought my classmates were extremely vain. After graduation, I couldn't handle the pressures of work and society and turned inward. I did not go out with friends, I did not want to call anyone or be called and I started to obsess over computer games. It

was easier to communicate with people through games than with people in real life. I quit my job and started playing games all the time, and I only looked for jobs when I ran out of money. I ate poorly. One day, I panicked when I went outside, and after that I would not go out anymore. My life was neither at work or home, and I even forgot simple things like how to read bus stop signs."

Most otaku are young people who do not have jobs. They have no opportunity to pursue higher education, and cannot find jobs after graduation. The otaku's poor social skills leave them feeling a perpetual victim, and they usually prefer to give up and stay at home.

Hu suspects otaku can hardly become good stay-at-home workers. "Working in a home office takes dedication, not just being at home," Hu said.

He said he thinks it natural that young people like animation and video games, but banning them from reading comics or playing computer games is not a solution.

"Teenagers need encouragement to go out and travel or look for jobs. Some well-off families look down on any low-paying jobs, which is a real mistake," Hu said.

Anti-otaku forum

Wang's znnziny.com is China's first anti-otaku forum. Wang escaped the otaku lifestyle and found work as a freelancer. He said he hopes the forum can help others like him to escape a destructive lifestyle.

The forum opened last December and has 3,000 registered members.

Wang said the members include other freelancers who work at home, students and housewives.

The Web site has different sections, including comics and video games to attract otaku attention. Its dual function is to provide a platform for otaku to discuss amongst themselves how to escape being one.

"I organize some offline events as well," Wang said.

By Annie Wei

Wang Fan, a 25-year-old former otaku, has a new Web site at znnziny.com to help other addicts buck what Wang said is an impulsive lifestyle.

The otaku culture was once unique to Japan, where people over 20 years old retreat from the world by funneling all their time, money and energy into odd hobbies. The otaku is obsessed over animation, characters, the techniques of media creation, comics, video games, voice actors and just about anything else.



Escaping the circle

Shorten your time on the computer. The otaku life thrives on the Internet, either playing games or surfing pages. If you are used to spending more than 13 hours on the computer, try to gradually cut back from less than 13 to 6.

Get off line. The typical otaku prefers hanging out online even he finds nothing interesting to read, to watch or to play. Log out and walk away from the computer.

Get out of the apartment. Otaku like to spend all their time at home instead of going out, going to

school or to work. Try to take a walk after each meal. Go to the gym, the movies or just go shopping.

Be sociable. Most otaku hate going outside and meeting other people. They need to encourage themselves to make new friends. It is easy to start from a nice chat with the local grocer or beer delivery man.

Find a boyfriend or girlfriend. Most otaku are single, so try to get yourself a date and start a relationship. You can ask your friends, family or co-workers to introduce nice single men or women to you.

Ebony and Ivory

By Gan Tian

Maybe you dreamt of being a famous pianist when you were young. Ah, how time flies. Reality and a focus on making a living in the big city can crush dreams, but do not give up! Maybe now is the time to try again. *Beijing Today* has dug up some digital pianos that are portable for your fast-paced life and might help you realize your musical goals.



KORG px100aw Digital Keyboard

This one will mystify and amaze you. Japanese products always demonstrate better taste. Could it be the colors? The panel resembling a music score sheet will let you fantasize that you are a club disc jockey. The complex keyboard reminds you of the cockpit of an airplane. You will wonder if you are playing a piano or flying a jumbo jet!

Available: rakuten.co.jp
Price: 159,600 yuan



Dongdong Rolling Piano

Whoever invented this little number must have been a real "functionalist." The black and white keys are all printed onto a piece of long cloth-like fabric. When you need to play the piano, simply unfold it, strike the keys and the sound emanates out of a small speaker in the unit. Roll it up when you are done. In a small apartment where a real piano just will not fit, this product is perfect. It is very portable so you can display your talents anywhere you choose.

Available: 92, Xinjiekou Nandajie, Xicheng District
Price: 450 yuan



Casio PX500 Digital Piano

I cannot resist toys with perfect design and this digital piano is hard to resist. It breaks down the traditional concept of a black and white piano. The five light-red keys with white edges will hypnotize you and the two-track sequencer will inspire you to create music.

Available: 163, Nan Xinhua Jie, Xuanwu District
Price: 3,380 yuan above



Xinyun XY322 Digital Keyboard

I was doing some research online and found this. Look at the price first – 200 yuan! My friend told me "if you buy something too cheap, you probably will become very discouraged when you start your musical career." I agree, but why does 200 yuan leave such a bad impression? It is OK if you just want to make a first attempt. A friend said I was just buying a toy at that price. Maybe, but sometimes a toy can do the trick for the beginner.

Available: shop34512668.taobao.com
Price: 200 yuan

Casio WK 3300 Digital Keyboard

This product makes you look a little more professional. A total of 400 advanced tones make it sound richer and more powerful. You will like its built-in flash memory. It lets you expand your selection of tones and rhythms by downloading data from the Casio Music Site, or from the CD-rom that comes with the keyboard. You can also store up to 200 music files for playback. Your music career is looking brighter already.

Available: A818, 99, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Price: 2,500 yuan and up



Yamaha P85 Digital Piano

If you want something close to a real piano, this could be the ticket. It has the familiar 88 keys, graded hammer action, two 6W integrated speakers, 62-note polyphony, 10 different sounds, stereo samples, reverb and chorus effects, dual performance mode, sustain pedals, 10 demos and 50 demo songs, metronome and two headphone outputs. It includes a music stand, sustain pedal FC-5 and a power supply.

Trust in Yamaha. The gorgeous piano sounds of the P85 feature meticulous digital sampling of a full concert grand at various playing strengths, thanks to Yamaha's sophisticated AWM Stereo Sampling.

What's more, you get an extra table and chair, and a cover for the piano. This piano is worthy.

Available: shop34512668.taobao.com
Price: 3,800 yuan



Flu Fighter 1: Green Tea

Green tea contains an immune-boosting chemical called epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). To get the most benefits from this hot drink, steep the tea in boiling water for about 4 minutes. You can change the flavor by steeping tea with a 2-centimeter chunk of fresh ginger, fresh mint leaves, a twist of orange peel or a cinnamon stick. Try to drink three or more cups per day.

Recommendation: Green tea in Laoshe Teahouse

Where: Zhengyang Market Building 3, Qiamen Xi Dajie, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6303 6830, 6302 1717
Open: 10 am – 10 pm



Flu Fighter 2: Yogurt

Yogurt contains probiotics – the good bacteria that line the intestines and defend the body against invading germs. Buy plain yogurt for reduced calories and less added sugar than in fruit-flavored versions, then add a teaspoon of honey. There are at least 100 million bacteria per gram of yogurt.

Recommendation: You can try Dannon's Activia and DanActive, which are clinically proven to help regulate the digestive system. They are available in major supermarkets.



Flu Fighter 3: Cabbage

A source of vitamin C, fiber and phytochemicals known as glucosinolates, cabbage is thought to prevent cancer and heal ulcers. Scientists also have reported that the leafy vegetable has helped animals recover from viruses. Although it is high in sodium, try adding sauerkraut to your hot dog to offset its processed contents.

Recommendation: Beef and Cabbage Soup in Kiessling Restaurant

Where: 206, Hualong Shipin Jie, Nanheyuan Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6559 7735
Open: 11 am – 9 pm



Flu Fighter 4: Sweet Potatoes

The beta carotene in sweet potatoes makes the tuber an immune system booster.

Tips: For a quick sweet-potato side dish, pop one in the oven whole or thinly slice, season and bake for a healthy bowl of chips. Look for potatoes with darker flesh, which have higher beta-carotene content.

Foods and drinks to fight off flu

By Li Fenghua

Spring in Beijing is dry and windy. The temperature changes frequently, with chilly early mornings and evenings and hot afternoons. Catching the flu is easy at this time of year, and can be difficult to shake off.

Instead of turning to pills, try natural flu-fighters that can enhance your immune system. A boost to the immune system is more effective

than treating cold symptoms, since you are bound to bump into more bacteria and viruses in the big city.

You can reduce your own susceptibility by choosing the right foods and arming yourself with proven immune system boosters.

Don't let this season's cold and flu take you down. Pump up your immune system with these eight tasty foods and beverages.



Flu Fighter 8: Chicken Soup

A research study found that chicken soup has mild anti-inflammatory properties, which may help relieve

colds and flu by decreasing mucus production, as well as throat swelling and irritation. Make your next batch of soup with similar ingredients to the ones in the recipe

from the study: chicken, onion, sweet potato, turnips, parsnips, carrots, celery and parsley.

Recommendation: Chicken Soup in Caixiang- gen Main Restaurant

Where: 9, Yuetan Nan Lu, Xicheng District

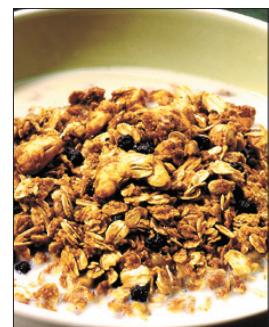
Tel: 6802 1707
Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5-9 pm

Flu Fighter 7: Ginger

Ginger contains gingerol, a natural plant compound that can help fight off infection. Put a 2-centimeter chunk of the spicy root into a cup of boiling water to make

ginger tea, or make fresh ginger vinaigrette to top raw or cooked vegetables.

Tips: Mix 2 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 1 teaspoon grated ginger and 1 teaspoon sugar.



Flu Fighter 5: Oats

Full of fiber, oats contain vitamins E and B, a number of minerals and immune system-boosting beta-glucans. They have been used to address everything from stomach discomfort and digestive ailments to cholesterol.

Tips: To up your intake, you can sneak oats into your meatloaf or meatballs or use them in chicken breading.

Flu Fighter 6: Honey

Full of antioxidants, honey has long been used to help treat sore throats and other bacterial infections. It also can assist in the growth of friendly bacteria and improve digestive health. Some research has shown that it may help fight cancer.

Tips: Sneak more honey in your diet by using it to replace sugar in the coffee. Honey bottles are available in most supermarkets.

Dining



"Signature Performance" meeting menus

China World Hotel, The Kerry Center and Shangri-La Hotel in Beijing have incorporated nutritious dishes into meeting menus.

Signature Performance Menus are one of the components of Healthy Lifestyle Cuisine, a program designed to provide healthy dining options to Shangri-La customers. Sixty varieties of healthy dishes are featured in the menus, in addition to the standard meeting menus.

A meeting participant's meal may start with a Black Pepper Pumpkin Ravioli with Roasted Asparagus and Tomato Sauce or Pan-seared Tuna with Green Lentils, Couscous and Orange Lemongrass Reduction, followed by a main course of Oven-baked Salmon Fillet Wrapped in Prosciutto with Herby Lentils, Spinach and Yogurt or Chicken Breast Roll with Enoki Mushrooms, Carrots and Wild Rice, crowned with a dessert of Tropical Mango and Strawberry Salad with Yogurt Sherbet or Fruit Soup with Berries and Papaya Sorbet.

Please call (852) 2331 6688 for more information.

Nightlife

Playmaker back by popular demand

The band, Playmaker, made last year a 10-day tour of Beijing and Qingdao, where it became the first British band to play on the east coast when they headlined the incredible MAX07 art and music festival, performing for 2000 people.

Playmaker has been asked back to MAX08 and offered more dates in Beijing in March and a mini album is planned to coincide with its tour.

Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, March 15

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080, 6402 7494



Aviation



KLM sets sights on co2 compensation

Following through on its commitment to being a leader in sustainable aviation, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines today announced the introduction of an innovative CO2 compensation service; CO2ZERO.

Launched at an international dialogue event in The Netherlands, this initiative aims to facilitate KLM customers to compensate for their individual flight-related CO2 emissions using

this reliable and easy-to-use service that is integrated in the booking and on-line check-in process. Every euro a customer invests will be 100 percent reinvested into Gold Standard compensation projects focusing on renewable energy throughout the world. Gold Standard projects have the highest available CO2 certificate and are fully supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature in The Netherlands.

Guangzhou gets on board with Emirates

The ancient city of Guangzhou, now China's economic powerhouse, will join Emirates' sprawling six-continent non-stop network on July 1.

Starting July 1, Emirates' EK362 will fly non-stop four times weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

EK362 will depart Guangzhou at 11:55 pm and arrive in Dubai at 3:40 am next day, turning around at 10:35 am to arrive back in Guangzhou at 10:20 pm.

Emirates' services to Guangzhou will conveniently connect travellers from Europe, particularly those from the UK, France, Germany and Switzerland, and US cities New York and Houston. Travellers from Africa and the Middle East, particularly Cape Town, Lagos, Cairo, Amman, Kuwait, Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Beirut, are also well-served with four-seven hour connections in Dubai.

Outdoors



Hakka buildings have real soil

Fujian is a southeastern province facing Taiwan. The journey starts from Xiamen, a beautiful seaport city on Gulangyu Island; then drive into the mountain villages south and west of Fujian to take in the magical Chinese architecture Tu Lou, the earthen buildings of Hakkas.

The unadorned tu lou are either round or square and huge, towering at 10-17 meters. They were designed as a combination of fortress and apartment building. The structures typically had only one entrance way and no windows at ground level. Each floor served a different function – the first floor had a well and livestock, the second for food

storage and the third and highest floors contained living spaces.

Hakka people still live in the houses and you can witness residents' everyday routines full of life and surrounded by chickens, ducks and dogs. The people carry on with their daily duties of cooking, washing clothes and working in the houses which are nestled in beautiful villages and landscapes of rivers, rich trees and blossoms bathed in very pleasant weather.

When: Fly to Xiamen on March 21 with a return flight to Beijing on March 23

Cost: 5,500 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(registration at CCC is important)

Tang Dynasty Cave Dwellings

On this hike you will visit the valley where a Tang Dynasty ruler and his followers created an inter-connected series of cave dwellings after fleeing from a coup. This hike is suitable for children and is quite easy. The cave dwellings are sure to spark the imagination.

Nobody is certain exactly who it was that established the cave dwellings, only that they were made during the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD) and inhabited for approximately 200 years. The cave dwellings were carved into the sandstone cliffs and are extensive and well-designed, connected by tunnels and stairways, and featuring heated kang beds, temples and meeting rooms plus animal shelters on the lower levels. Some rooms are high up on the cliff face.

Local legend has it that the caves were built in the body of a dragon, and that a curious rock on one of the paths is a fallen meteorite. In the 1960s some of the caves at the foot of the valley were used to store weapons and ammunition. In 1976 the caves were

damaged by an earthquake. As a result, cross-sections of some of the outer rooms are visible.

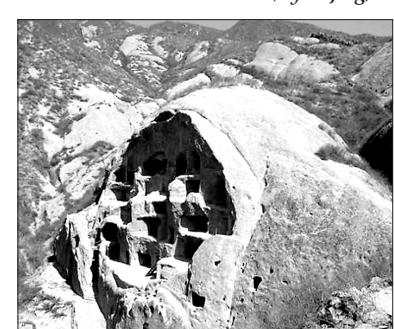
Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, March 22

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516
(reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)



Hazardous health styles

By Han Manman

Healthy concepts have become the fashion, and many people who want to pursue a high quality life pounce on every new healthy idea. However, even after doing so, people's health has not improved.

Why? Getting the wrong idea could be the answer. *Beijing Today* has examined a few erroneous concepts and here are the results.

Wrong concept 1: Colonic irrigation or fasting for a day can effectively eliminate large quantities of toxic waste that affects the entire body.

Many believe colonic irrigation is a natural way to achieve healthy skin by removing putrefaction and toxic waste. Some say fasting for a day a week is a good way to eliminate body waste. They only eat fruit or drink honey water throughout the chosen day.

Wrong concept 2: Doing it naturally is best. In recent years, consuming natural foods and using natural materials for skincare have become very popular. Aloe is a perfect example.

Expert opinion: Aloe does indeed provide health care functions for the body. However, aloe

Expert opinion: In traditional Chinese medical theory, eliminating toxic waste is very important. Besides bowel movements and sweat, blood-letting was also popular in ancient China. However, experts say colonic irrigation can easily cause the intestine to become thick and may also lead to intestinal failure. Fasting is also unwise, especially for people who have a weak spleen and stomach or low blood sugar.

has over 500 different varieties and only a dozen or so should be used on the skin and very few should be ingested.

Aloe that contains Aloe-emodin also leads to diarrhea. So, directly use or eating natural materials is not suitable for all, and certainly not the best.

Wrong concept 3: Brush your teeth immediately after a meal. To protect teeth and avoid developing halitosis, bacterial bad breath, many fashionable ladies always brush their teeth immediately after their work lunch.

Expert opinion: Although you may think you

should brush your teeth after breakfast, you are wrong. Immediately after eating food, the acid levels in the mouth increase to protect tooth enamel and can be impeded by immediate brushing. It is recommended to wait one hour after the meal before brushing since this will give your saliva a chance to buffer the acids and prevent abrasive wear on your teeth's enamel.

Wrong concept 4: Control underwear is a great way to firm and shape the figure, and it makes you look great.

Expert opinion: Wearing restrictive knickers can trigger a rash of health problems from having a damaging effect on breathing patterns to heartburn and even inflammation and ulcers of the stomach. Some people develop jock itch, an itchy, fungal infection of the skin. It can be caused by wearing clothes that are too tight or that are made of non-breathable fabrics.

These garments can cause chronic hyperventilation that leads to panic attacks and incontinence.

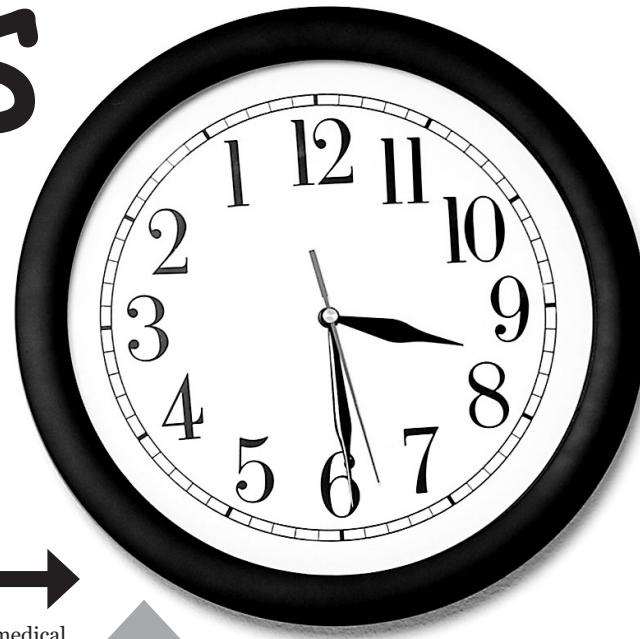
Wrong concept 5: The more seafood you eat, the better. It not only contains high nutrition but also low fat.

Expert opinion: Yes, it's true that seafood contains high nutrition, high protein and tastes great, but seafood has been confirmed to greatly increase the levels of uric acid in the blood, thus facilitating the occurrence of gout. Feasting on fish is OK – just not too much.

Wrong concept 6:

High heels are the mainstay of the professional image and not only make you look slim but also shape the leg.

Expert opinion: They may look great but, in fact, high heels are one of the biggest factors leading to foot problems in women. They force your toes into tight confined areas crammed into the narrow toe box of the shoe, bending your toes into unnatural positions. As a result, you develop bumps and areas of thickened skin that rub painfully against your shoes. High heels are also the prime culprit in waist pain and could lead to the straining of lumbar muscles. Do not wear heels that are higher than three centimeters.



The body clock

Understanding your body's timetable is essential to leading a healthy life.

The Chinese Blood Circulation Meridian talks of a "a real clock" being contained within our bodies. Ancient Chinese practitioners used this timetable to prescribe medicine for their patients. It also represents how efficiently our organs function during certain periods. Hence, it is a good guideline for people to achieve optimum health.

The timetables are: Liver (11 am – 1 pm); Gallbladder (1-3 am); Lungs (3-5 am); Colon (5-7 am); Stomach (7-9 am); Spleen (9-11 am); Heart (11 am – 1 pm); Intestine (1-3 pm); Bladder (3-5 pm); Kidney (5-7 pm); Blood vessels (7-9 pm); Lymph (9-11 pm).

Based upon the timetable, a large amount of blood is concentrated in the liver from **11 pm to 1 am**. The flow of blood into the liver will help to enhance the breakdown of toxins and the secretion of bile. This secretion is then stored in the gall bladder. So, the best time for the efficiency of the liver should be two hours **earlier than that of the gall bladder**. We easily tire during that time when the power of the liver decreases. The body's fatigue may further cause diseases linked to the liver.

To ensure that our liver rests well and regains its power, we should sleep **before 11 pm**. At **11 pm**, the liver collects good nutrients from the blood. According to Chinese medicine, the liver is closely associated with wood and plants, and consuming green vegetables is good for this organ.

Between 7 and 9 am, a large amount of blood flows into the stomach to help enhance the digestion of food. Also, during this period, blood is concentrated in the pancreas to assist the breakdown of complex food into small molecules so that they can be absorbed easily into the bloodstream through the small intestine and transported to the all the body's cells. That is why 7 am is the ideal time to have breakfast as the next two hours are the best time for the stomach to digest food efficiently.

From 5 to 7 am, the blood is concentrated in the large intestine. At this time, the large intestine works efficiently to excrete the feces. If ingested food is not digested properly within 24 hours, the toxins in the feces will be reabsorbed by the water in the large intestine. This is a major reason why most people suffer from constipation.

According to the timetable, blood is concentrated in the lungs from **3 to 5 am**. This is a good time to rest and to "recharge" the power of the lungs. Thus, the lungs should have enough rest to enhance their efficiency. This fact explains why at this time the blood circulation is the slowest and the rate and frequency of breathing is minimal. Otherwise, the ability of the lungs will decrease if they do not get enough rest. So, make sure you avoid doing any activities at this particular time.

In short, do not do things that are in conflict with your body's natural instincts, otherwise your body may just surrender and collapse one day.



Photo by ChinaFotoPress

Golden fields of canola flowers

Mid-March to April

Wuyuan, Jiangxi Province

Canola flowers are already blooming in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province. The scene is most beautiful from mid to late March. The canola fields are decorated with pink peach blossoms and white pear blossoms. The local residents live in typical Anhui-style houses, with white wall and black tiles. Visitors usually live with local families and share meals with the locals.

Wuyuan is a hot spot for amateur and professional photographers. Flowers, villages, rivers and bridges frame a picturesque pace of life.

The local Yan and Sixi villages have ancient dwellings and *langqiao*, a kind of corridor bridge. There are two Likeng Villages in Wuyuan, but it is more famous for other features. Most of the villagers share the family name "Li." The village backs up to a mountain and surrounding river. The other Likeng Village was built at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Hundreds of famous officials and scholars have come from the village.

Getting there: Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, offers buses to Wuyuan. Take the 9:20 am bus from the Hangzhou long-distance bus station. Tickets cost 97 yuan and the trip takes five hours hours.

Early March to End of March

Anshun, Guizhou Province

The Longgong resort launched several days ago its sixth Guizhou canola flower tourism festival in Anshun city, Guizhou Province. The main venue of the festival is in the Xuantang resort in Longgong, which includes three local villages. Visitors can go to a villager's home to taste local food and watch local culture exhibitions.

Guizhou's arable land is limited, and local villagers plant canola flowers on the mountain. When the flowers blossom, it's like the mountains are carpeted in gold.

Getting there: From the capital city of Guizhou, Guiyang city, there are direct trains and buses to Anshun. The journey by train takes an hour and a half, almost the same as by bus. Train tickets cost 100 yuan, and bus tickets 20 to 25 yuan.

Buses to Kaiyang depart from the Guiyang bus station every 50 minutes from 7:50 am.



Local people perform traditional Anshun opera for the canola flower festival.

Photo by Yang Jian

Mid-March to April

Luoping, Yunnan Province

With spring on the way and temperatures climbing, now is the time to get out and see flowers. Southern China has several areas famous for canola flowers, but the ice storms of Spring Festival have pushed the blooming season back to April. From now to the start of next month, is the best time to see the golden flowers: Luoping in Yunnan Province, Wuyuan in Jiangxi Province and Anshun in Guizhou Province are all popular destinations for flower fans.



Golden canola flowers with traditional local houses in Wuyuan, Jiangxi Province

Photo by Hui Yan



Beehives are placed among the flowers.

Photo by Liang Baohai & Han Xin

Mid-March to early April

Luoping, Yunnan Province

Luoping County in the east part of Yunnan Province is one of China's primary canola production bases, as well as a base for bee raising and honey collection. Where there are canola flowers, there are bound to be bees. Bees in the area live on the canola flower pollen and see to it that each year has a good harvest.

In Luoping Bazi, the local plains in the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, is home to around 133 million square meters of canola flowers every spring. The fields are like a golden sea.

Nankun Railway and No 324 National Highway both cross the fields.

Mid-March to early April

Luoping, Yunnan Province

Jinji Mountain in the northeast of Luoping is the best place to view the canola flowers. Mornings in Luoping are usually foggy. If you climb to the summit, you can see the outlines of other mountains nearby. When the fog lifts, you can see the flowers. Beekeepers' cars scatter in the fields, like ships in the ocean. The beekeepers unload their beehives from the vehicles and unleash the insects on the flowers.

Getting there: In Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province, there are tourist trains directly to Luoping. The whole journey is around four hours and tickets cost 17 to 30 yuan. Bus tickets cost 25 to 30 yuan.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Other places

March to April

Yingde National Forest Park, Qingyuan city, Guangdong

The Huashui Mountain reserve in the park is the only canola flower resort in Guangdong Province. The flowers blossom from February to the end of April.

Getting there: The park is in Yingde area in Qingyuan city. You can take a train directly from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, to Yingde. It takes less than two hours. Buses are available.

May

Guanzhong Plain, Shaanxi Province

In Maoling (Mao Tomb) and Pingling (Ping Tomb), you can see areas with canola flowers. Maoling is the tomb of Liu Che (156-87 BC), one of the emperors of Han Dynasty (206-220 BC) and Ganling is said to be the tomb where the third emperor of Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Wu Zetian (624-705), the first female emperor of China, are buried together.

Getting there: At the bus station near Xi'an Railway Station, there are tour buses to Maoling and Ganling.

July

Menyuan County, Qinghai Province

Menyuan County, Qinghai Province, has an altitude of 3,200 meters which delays the cycle of its flowers. About 400 million square meters of Canola flowers blossom around Qinghai Lake.

Getting there: From Xining, capital of Qinghai Province, you can take bus to Menyuan. The distance between Xining and Menyuan is 155 kilometers.



Snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Busselton underwater observatory.

Photos by Pbase.com

Head west for the real Australia



Bather's bay in Fremantle

Busselton Dreamlike Beach

Busselton, on the west coast of Australia's southwestern tourist region, faces north-west to the Indian Ocean at the shores of Geographe Bay, where the ocean is very calm.

The first settler of Busselton was John Garrett Bussell, who arrived on the banks of the Vasse River in 1832. He was so captivated by the area that he lived there with his family his whole life. The track he cut from the Vasse River to the bay is modern-day Busselton's main street.

It is best known for its iconic 2-kilometer long jetty and calm, tur-

quoise bays. Busselton has a relaxed atmosphere and is a popular place for holiday. Twice voted Western Australia's top tourism town, it has since emerged as a premier seaside resort and gateway to the Margaret River Wine Region.

Originally built in 1865, the historic jetty is the longest wooden pier in the southern hemisphere. It took 95 years to build and stretches 2 kilometers into the ocean. The Busselton Jetty Underwater Observatory allows non-divers to have a peek at the area's magical underwater world. Described

as Australia's greatest artificial reef, the Busselton Jetty is home to an awesome forest of colorful corals, sponges, fish and invertebrates.

The tranquil water of Geographe Bay, a notable feature of the Western Australian coastline, is an attraction within itself. The beautiful beaches stretch endlessly in each direction. It is great for water skiers, windsurfers and snorkelers or divers.

Getting there: Drive two and a half hours south from Perth. There are plenty of taxis and a public bus transport service from Perth.

Margaret River Surfing Paradise

No trip to Western Australia is complete without a pit stop at Margaret River. Originally a chilled-out surfing town, Margaret River has evolved into the ultimate smorgasbord of good food, fine wine and spectacular scenery.

The town and river were named after Margaret Wyche, cousin of John Bussell. The settlement began as early as the 1850s with the area being used for logging in the 1870s. The town became established after World War I.

The Margaret river is surrounded by stunning forests, and flows into the

ocean where some of the largest surfing waters in Australia can be found. The town seems like it is worlds away from the hustle and bustle of modern day stress. It is ideally located between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin.

It has magnificent surf breaks that bring thousands of surfers to the town year round. The coastline around Margaret River experiences excellent surfing conditions, and surfers from around the globe trek there annually in search of Hawaiian-style surf.

The area has a fine supply of

world-class wineries, boutique breweries and restaurants overlooking sweeping vineyards and surf breaks. The wine is top notch – the region produces less than one percent of Australian wine, but over 15 percent of the country's premium wine.

Getting there: Drive three-and-a-half hours south from Perth. It is accessible in a variety of ways, including car, bus, air and train. South West Coach Lines conducts daily service between Perth and the Margaret River.

Fremantle Melting Port

Situated at the mouth of the Swan River, Fremantle is a multi-cultural city with a charm all its own.

It was established in 1829 as a port for the fledgling Swan River Colony and was the major city in Western Australia for much of its early history. The city is named after Charles Fremantle, the English naval officer who pronounced possession of Western Australia and established the camp at the site.

The Western Australian vernacular diminutive for Fremantle is "Freo." Freo was the first port of call in Australia for many migrants and visitors, and today it sustains a rich mixture of cultures and nation-

alities. It offers a lively blend of cultures and a relaxed lifestyle.

It is popular with diners and caters to all tastes and budgets. Italian and Asian cuisine is abundant. Numerous cafes and coffee shops are situated around Fremantle, particularly on its famous "Cappuccino Strip," a section of South Terrace given over to alfresco dining since 1977.

Fremantle has world-famous heritage buildings and boasts the best preserved example of a 19th century port streetscape in the world. Within easy walking and cycling distance, visitors can experience contemporary circus, fine crafts, original music and theater, exciting galleries, museums,

bookshops and buskers.

It's also a shopaholic's heaven. The Fremantle Markets, opened in 1897, form a precinct that provides handicrafts, specialty foods, dining halls and fish and vegetable markets.

Getting there: Three ways, besides car, to get from Perth to Fremantle: train, bus or ferry. An electric train from Perth Central Station takes less than half an hour, or catch the ferry from the Barrack Street Jetty in Perth and enjoy the sights from the Swan River. After arrival in Fremantle, the easiest way to get around is with the free Fremantle CAT (City Area Transport).

(By Zhang Dongya)

Western Australia, one of the oldest lands on Earth, boasts an Aboriginal history that spans 40,000 years. The state is so large that, while it can be cold and raining in the south, the north will have high temperatures and floods. It is famous for long days of sunshine, spotless blue skies and brilliant beaches. Its varied landscapes encapsulate all the continent has to offer.



Margaret River is a paradise for surfers.



Exotic performances can always be seen on Fremantle's streets.

Tips

Drinking: It is offensive in Western Australia for persons of any age to drink in public, such as on the street, in a park or at the beach.

Sun Protection: Be sure to wear sun protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses to protect your skin. Take extra care when outdoors between 10 am and 3 pm.

Hiring a car: A valid International Driving Permit is required. Drive on the left.

50 First Dates (2004)

Movie of the Week

As a rule, the more convoluted a comedy's setup, the bigger the laughs should be. So, set aside a little time and take a look at the Adam Sandler-Drew Barrymore vehicle *50 First Dates*, you may find the comedy is still a flabbergasting experience.

Besides, there's a real charm to the notion that a couple might share a first kiss every day.

Scene 1:

First day Henry meets Lucy at the cafe – day

Henry Roth: You know. Why don't you try this? It's kind of a hinge.

Lucy Whitmore: Now, why didn't I think of that?

Henry: Well, you're too close to the project. Don't be hard on yourself.

Lucy: Right. Sometimes you need an outsider's perspective. A fresh eye never hurts. I'm Lucy.

Henry: Yes. I'm Henry Roth.

Lucy: Nice to meet you.

Henry: Nice to meet you. It's pretty. Keep up the good work.

Lucy: Wait. I see you're sitting there alone. Do you wanna come and sit down?

Henry: Sure, that'd be great, if that's all right.

Lucy: OK. Are you an architect?

Henry: I am not. I'm in fish.

Lucy: Oh, that's where the smell is coming from.

Henry: Yeah, yeah, I was feeding a walrus this morning and I thought I got most of it on me, but guess I didn't.

Lucy: I love that smell.

Henry: No, you don't. Fish don't even like that smell.

Scene 2:

Second day at the cafe – day

Henry: My fingers are extra fishy today, if you care to take a whiff⁽²⁾.

I was petting my walrus all morning and thinking of you the whole time.

Lucy: OK, pervert⁽³⁾. I think that you should leave.

Henry: What? I was joking because of what we talked about yesterday.

Lucy: Yesterday? I've never even met you. Nick! I need help!

Nick: Coming, Lucy.

Hostess: Nick, put that down. I'll handle it. (*turning to Henry*) You, follow me.

Henry: What's going on? Is she crazy or something?

Hostess: Lucy is a very special person. Very different from other people.

Henry: OK.

Hostess: About a year ago, Lucy was in a terrible car accident. She and her father went up to the north shore to get a pineapple. Her father broke some ribs, but Lucy suffered a serious head injury. She lost her short-term memory.

Henry: So she can't remember anything?

Hostess: No. She has all of her long-term memory. Her whole life, up to the night before the accident, she remembers. She just can't retain any new information. It's like her slate gets wiped clean every night while she sleeps. She has no memory that she ever met you.

Scene 3:

Third day at the cafe – day

Henry: Sorry to interrupt, but

I noticed we were both eating alone and I thought I could sit with you, maybe build a syrup Jacuzzi⁽⁴⁾ for your waffle⁽⁵⁾ house?

Lucy: Oh, that would be nice but I have a boyfriend. So, I'm sorry.

Henry: You're making up a boyfriend to get rid of me?

Lucy: No, I'm not.

Henry: What's his name, then?

Lucy: Ringo.

Henry: Is his last name Starr?

Lucy: No. McCartney.

Henry: McCartney, OK.

Lucy: Oh, no.

Henry: All right. I'm sorry.

Scene 4:

In the yard – night

Father: Lover-boy.

Henry: Yes, sir.

Father: You don't have to rush off. Stick around⁽⁶⁾. You've earned yourself a couple beers. So what'll you do when you finish the boat?

Henry: Actually, I'm going on a trip soon to study undersea Pacific walrus behavior.

Father: Sounds kind of fruity.

Henry: Thank you.

Father: How long is it gonna take?

Henry: About a year.

Father: Guess you won't miss days like this.

Henry: Well, maybe days like this don't have to be so bad.

Father: What are you trying to say?

Henry: When you guys tell her she's not just finding out

about the accident. She's finding out that her life is basically a setup. I think that freaks⁽⁷⁾ her out the most.

Scene 5:

On the shore – night

Lucy: Okay, so tell me a little bit more about yourself.

Henry: Well, I've won over seven all-you-can-eat chicken-wing contests.

Lucy: Really?

Henry: Yes. And I'm a ballet dancer, but only in my bathroom. What do you want to know?

Lucy: Do you love me? I didn't mean to put you on the spot⁽⁸⁾. I was just asking more for informational purposes. It's to keep the video as up-to-date as possible.

Henry: Sure. Well, love is a very loaded word. Let's see. I go to this restaurant every morning, and I see you there, reading. And I love you very much. Probably more than anybody could love another person.

Lucy: And how do I feel about you?

Henry: You're excited about the chicken-wing thing. And you've been dying to make out with me for some time now. Feeling better now?

Lucy: Nothing beats a first kiss.

Henry: There's nothing like a first kiss.



Synopsis

In the unforgettable romantic comedy, *50 First Dates*, love means never having to say, "Who the hell are you?" Marine biologist Henry Roth finds the perfect woman, Lucy Whitmore and falls head over heels for her. But when he sees her the following day, she hasn't a clue who he is. Lucy suffers from a rare brain disorder that wipes her memory clean every night. Now, with the help of his friend Ula, Henry has to concoct new and increasingly clever ways to meet her and get her to fall for him everyday.



Vocabulary

1. **Fresh eye:** other people's perspective outside of your own
2. **take a whiff:** sniff, to inhale through the nose
3. **pervert:** a person with odd, not-so-normal behav-

- ior, usual referring to sexual ideas
4. **Jacuzzi:** trademark name of a whirlpool bath
5. **waffle:** grid-like shaped pancake
6. **stick around:** to wait in the vicinity

7. **freak out:** to lose emotional control
8. **put on the spot:** put someone under pressure

(By Huang Daohen)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life.

If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Doggy bag dilemma

By Han Manman

Today is Lisa's last day in New York. Tomorrow, she will finish her two-week US tour and return to Beijing. To show her thanks to her friend Tom, who was her guide for many days, Lisa decided to treat him to dinner.

The dinner was in a quiet and elegant restaurant, and both Lisa and Tom enjoyed themselves. "This cake is so delicious, please eat little," Lisa said. As a friend of Lisa, Tom knew her real meaning, but still laughed and said, "Lisa, I know what you mean, but people would think that you don't want them to eat the cake with your odd invitation." He explained that the proper words should be, "This cake is so delicious. Please try some."

Three hours later, it was time for them to go.

"We have so much food left over from dinner. You should take it home. There's enough there for your lunch tomorrow," Lisa said to Tom, and then said to the waiter, "Give me a box, please."

"A box? What do you mean, lady?" The waiter asked.

"No, no, she is asking for a doggy bag," Tom explained.

"What? Doggy bag? Why are you asking for a dog's bag?" Lisa seems so confused. She thought maybe Tom wanted to take the food home for his little dog.

Both Tom and the waiter laughed. Tom explained that a doggy bag is actually something one gets at a restaurant. Sometimes when you dine out there is a lot of food you cannot finish because you are full. If you want to take that leftover food home, you ask the waiter for a "doggy bag."

But Lisa still could not understand why it was called a "doggy bag," which she thought was a little rude.

Tom said, "Well, it's because sometimes people actually do take the leftover food home to give to their dog – but most of the time the food is for people to eat, not dogs. But we have always called it a doggy bag, which is just a figure of speech."

After dinner, Tom told Lisa that whenever she wanted to take leftovers back home, just ask the waiter, "Can you put this in a doggy bag for us, please?" or just say "We would like to take this home, please."

Tom's dogged determination in explaining this strange term had at long last earned Lisa's approval



Photo by ChinaFotoPress

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

便后请冲洗
Wash after relief

Gotta go,
gotta go,
gotta go

By Derrick Sobodash

The number one place to take care of number two business is sure to have Chinglish. In a city that has five-star toilets, doing one's business is serious business.

"Wash after relief" is a little odd because it includes an allusion to feces. Much as in English, talking about doo-doo is a no-no when surrounded by polite company, even in Chinese. The writers – admirably direct – wrote Chinese that translates quite directly as, "After you crap, please wash."

Polite society has a fascination with euphemisms for both feces and removing feces from oneself, and going to relieve oneself is only one of many.

Ask the waitress where her restaurant's washroom, or lavatory or – if you're British – its "WC" is located. A polite lady may ask where she can do her makeup or "powder her nose." However you choose to get there, on top of the thundermug is the place to be when you need to lay cables.

Wherever you go when it's time to talk to a man about a horse, after you manage your business, you can find "relief." The only problem is that "relief" is not usually floating in the bowl behind you, it's that euphoric sensation brought only by release.

Enough toilet humor for this week.

The point is, while these phrases may be "funny-ha-ha," none are to be tossed around with the parents of one's Friday night pick-up – especially in English. The best option would be to chop out the first two characters and keep the rest. Unless the reader has Alzheimer's disease, he probably will not have forgotten why his is being asked to "Please wash."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Information updates

To "update" is a transitive verb. When you mean to bring information up to date, you must say that you update the information, or the information is updated. It never acts as an intransitive verb. It can also be used as a noun. For example, the re-entry update of a spacecraft.

2. Waited years

To wait is an intransitive verb when it means "to stop doing something or stay until someone comes or something happens." The adverbial of time that modifies "to wait" must be followed by the preposition "for." It should read, "He waited for years." When it is a transitive verb, it means

"to wait for." A good example is, "He waited his chance."

3. To go hunt for a girl friend

We usually say "to go doing something". There can never be a combination of "to go" and "to do". So, idiomatically, we should say here, "to go hunting for a girl friend." Similarly, we say "to go swimming," or "to go skating."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Information updates

Even though "updates" is a transitive verb, this term is quite acceptable in the example phrase, especially in today's modern media circles. Many television and radio news broadcasts present regular "information updates." Normally this verb would be used as in the following example sentence, "The reporter updates the news on an hourly basis." or, "The weathercast is updated every 10 minutes."

2. Waited years

"Waited years," although not grammatically sound, is accepted in English speech now. Keep in mind that English is a constantly changing language, which can make it difficult for non-native speakers to keep up.

In the intransitive form, the verb "wait" means to pause and should be followed by "for" and the sentence should read, "Waited for years." In the transitive form,

you can drop the word, "for." An example, "He waited his turn at bat."

3. To go hunt for a girl friend

This phrase sounds correct but is slightly off grammatically. When using, "to go," you must follow those words with an action ending in the letters "-ing" for proper grammatical structure. The phrase should read, "To go hunting for a girlfriend." Remember, we never say "to go swim." It's "to go swimming." Last one in is a rotten egg!

7

Sunday, March 23

Exhibition

Men in Mental Boxes – Wang Jiazeng Solo Exhibition

Where: Gaodi Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Liuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon – 7:30 pm, until April 16

Admission: Free
Tel: 6437 7177

Zheng Delong Solo Exhibition

Where: Han Ji Yun Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 7 pm, until April 13

Admission: Free
Tel: 6434 0266

Paint Beijing – Huang Youwei Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie,

Dongcheng

When: Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 5 pm, until March 24

Admission: Free
Tel: 6523 3320



Movie

Summer with the Ghosts

Ten-year-old Caroline travels from her home in Montréal to Austria to visit her filmmaker father, who is on location at a medieval castle but something seems to be going

awry with the special effects being produced by his long-time effects director, Otto.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



5

Friday, March 21

Exhibition

Disorientation II

The whole exhibition will show the different personal conceptions, styles and considerations of three artists on a similar joint project in contemporary art.

Where: Fun Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-sun 10 am – 6 pm, until April 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9257

Critical Mass Exhibition

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiaocun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until April 27

Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

Story – Moosa Mallykangas Solo Exhibition



Where: F/2, reception center, Inside-out, 50 Xingshikou Lu, Haidian

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until April 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 6285 5555

Where: Beijing Institut Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

Upcoming

Concert

Wang Jian Cello Solo Concert

Who: Wang Jian
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 23

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Movie

Vete de mi

Where: Beijing Institut Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666



6

Saturday, March 22

Exhibition

Solo Exhibition of Michael Kvium

Perversion and Madness, Anger and Joy! Michael Kvium is one of Denmark's most interesting painters with a strong personal iconography and style. He chose to develop his own figurative style of painting when neo-expressionism and neo-primitivism were the dominant styles in Europe.

Where: F/1 & F/2, Building 2, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until April 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9690

Zhao Gang Solo Exhibition

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until

March 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 1588



"Two and a half" Dimensional Strata

The exhibition features famous artist Feng Feng with his contemporary art works

Where: The Fifth Element Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until

March 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 1338



Movie

La Vraie Vie est Ailleurs

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in April

Concert

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Long Yu

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 6

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Bramwell Tovey

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, April 19

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Jolin Tsai Dancing Forever Beijing Concert

Who: Jolin Tsai

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 4-5

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

James Blunt Beijing Concert

Who: James Blunt

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 18

Admission: 380-780 yuan

Tel: 6425 5677

Celine Dion's Taking Chances World Tour

Who: Celine Dion

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 13

Admission: 300-3,000 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Drama

Hamlet

Who: British TNT Theater

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm, April 18-20

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

Like Shadows

Who: directed by Lai Shengchuan

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 4-5

Admission: 100-680 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

King

Who: Theater National de Toulouse

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, April 3-6

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)